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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

MAY 14 2009

Rec'd 4:20pm

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SYBIL BATES MCCORMACK

May 14, 2009

Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

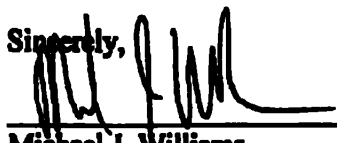
RE: MUR 6182; DAVID SCOTT FOR CONGRESS' RESPONSE

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed, please find the official response of the David Scott for Congress campaign committee regarding MUR 6182, regarding a complaint filed by David Knox. In addition to the response please find enclosed an affidavit from Congressman David Scott, regarding the role of and authorized activities of Andre Walker.

Additionally, please find a representative sampling of some of Andre Walker's blogging activities, illustrating the wide nature of Mr. Walker's communications regarding national and Georgia politics outside of the 2008 Democratic primary and general elections for Georgia's 13th Congressional District.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Williams
Attorney for David Scott for Congress

Enclosures

**RESPONSE TO COMPLAINT BEFORE
THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

In the matter of: **MUR 6182**

**David Scott for Congress
Henry Aaron, Treasure**

and

**Andre Walker
Georgia Politics Unfiltered**

RESPONSE

COMES NOW, David Scott for Congress, a campaign committee registered with the Federal Election Commission ("FEC"), Respondent herein, files this Response to the Complaint filed by David Knox, showing the Federal Elections Commission as follows:

1.

Respondent David Scott for Congress is a campaign committee registered with the Federal Election Commission. David Scott is the United States Representative representing the 13th Congressional district of Georgia. The address for David Scott for Congress is P.O. Box 960821, Riverdale, Georgia, 30296. Michael J. Williams is the attorney-in-fact to David Scott for Congress, having an address of 2262 Mount Zion Road, Jonesboro, Georgia, 30236.

2.

During the 2008 Georgia Democratic Primary and the 2008 General Election, David Scott for Congress contracted with Andre Walker, a private individual, for internet consulting services. More particularly, Mr. Walker was hired, and paid for, the

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development, construction and maintenance of the official webpage for David Scott for Congress – www.davidscottforcongress.com. Please see the affidavit of Congressman David Scott regarding the role Andre Walker played with David Scott for Congress, attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit A.

3.

Mr. Andre Walker regularly invoiced David Scott for Congress for the internet consulting services he provided to the committee. See Invoice from Andre Walker to David Scott for Congress, Dated March 15, 2008, for monthly web maintenance services, attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit B.

4.

David Scott for Congress paid invoices submitted by Mr. Andre Walker. Such payments were disclosed and reported by David Scott for Congress in full compliance with the Federal Election Campaign Act.

5.

David Knox, a private individual, who maintains a number of websites dedicated to attacking Congressman David Scott, has alleged, without any supporting facts, that payments reported by David Scott for Congress to Mr. Andre Walker for internet consulting services made from October 16, 2007 through July 18, 2008, were in fact payments for official communications in support of Congressman David Scott and official communications in opposition to Congressman Scott's primary and general election opponents.

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6.

In addition to providing contractual internet consulting services, since at least April 13, 2006, Mr. Andre Walker has been a prolific blogger, posting under the handle "Andre" on multiple sites on the worldwide web, posting news, information, insights, and commentary regarding a wide array of topics regarding national and Georgia, and metropolitan Atlanta politics and governance.

7.

Mr. Andre Walker previously maintained the Georgia Politics Unfiltered blog at <http://georgiaunfiltered.blogspot.com>, which is no longer active. To the committee's knowledge and belief, on this site Mr. Walker provided news, information, insight, and commentary on issues regarding national and Georgia governance and electoral politics. The Georgia Politics Unfiltered blog did not appear to have a focus upon any one candidate, electoral race, or issue. To the committee's knowledge and belief, Georgia Politics Unfiltered did not focus primarily upon Congressman David Scott, the David Scott for Congress committee, the primary or general elections for the 13th Congressional District of Georgia, or specific electoral opponents of Congressman David Scott. Georgia Politics Unfiltered is no longer maintained, and older postings have been removed from the worldwide web. See Exhibit C. However, a sampling of postings from Georgia Politics Unfiltered is attached as Exhibit D, retrieved from the internet archive site www.archive.org.

8.

In addition to operating, maintaining and posting at the Georgia Politics Unfiltered blog, Mr. Andre Walker has also posted news, information, insight, and

commentary on the Peach Pundit blog at www.peachpundit.com. As with Mr. Walker's posting on Georgia Politics Unfiltered, Mr. Walker's postings at Peach Pundit generally regard a wide variety of national, Georgia and metropolitan Atlanta politics. Mr. Walker's postings on Peach Pundit do not focus primarily upon Congressman David Scott, the David Scott for Congress committee, the primary or general elections for the 13th Congressional District of Georgia, or specific electoral opponents of Congressman David Scott. The Peach Pundit site is still actively maintained, and archives are maintained back to at least June 2005. Mr. Andre Walker's postings to Peach Pundit from October 2007 through July 2008 are attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit E. It appears that Mr. Andre Walker did not make any postings on Peach Pundit in either April or May 2008.

9.

At no point has Mr. Andre Walker been an official publicist, spokesperson, or representative of the David Scott for Congress committee. Mr. Walker's only official action on behalf of David Scott for Congress was the development, construction and maintenance of www.davidscottforcongress.com. Any information that Mr. Andre Walker posted or distributed at Georgia Politics Unfiltered, Peach Pundit, or any other site or location other than the official David Scott for Congress webpage, were Mr. Walker's own personal information, insight, and commentary. Any such communications were made without input, direction, or coordination of any kind from Congressman David Scott, David Scott for Congress, or any campaign officials or staff.

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10.

Since the communications referenced by Mr. David Knox, were the personal, news, information, insight, and commentary of Mr. Andre Walker and not official communications in anyway authorized or paid for by David Scott of Congress there have been no violations of 2 U.S.C. § 441d(a)(1)-(2), or any other provision of the Federal Elections Campaign Act, or any rules or regulations promulgated under the authority thereof.

CONCLUSION

11.

The allegations of Complainant Democrats for Good Government are not violations of any provision of the Federal Elections Campaign Act.

12.

Complainant has failed to provide any factual basis for his allegation.

13.

The documentation provided by Complainant in its complaint provides no information whatsoever to allow for verification of its authenticity. The documents provided by the Complainant are alleged to be various web pages authored by Mr. Andre Walker, however no webpage addresses, worldwide web addresses, IP addresses, or URL addresses are provided for these documents.

13.

Additionally, per number paragraph 1 of the Complaint, the official Complainant is Democrats for Good Government. Democrats for Good Government is not a legal entity under the laws of the United States, the State of Georgia, or any other state.

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Democrats for Good Government is a webpage developed and maintained by a private individual Mr. David Knox.

14.

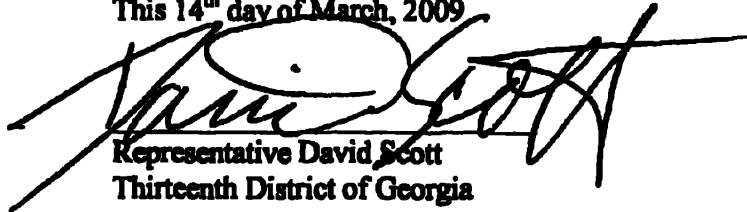
Because Mr. David Knox has not provided any information to support or verify his allegations that any provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act have been violated by David Scott for Congress, and further because the official Complainant lacks any legal powers or authority, the Complaint should be dismissed without any further action by the Federal Election Commission.

WHEREFORE, Respondent respectfully request:

1. that the Federal Election Commission officially dismiss the Complaint without any further action and consider MUR 6182 officially closed;
2. that the Federal Election Commission declare that the allegations of Mr. David Knox are without merit or factual support and further declare the Congressman David Scott and David Scott for Congress have not violated any provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act; and
3. that the Federal Election Commission impose any fines or fees authorized by the laws of the United States, or rules and regulations promulgated thereof, against Mr. David Knox for the filing of frivolous and unsupported complaints with the Commission.

[SIGNATURE AND SWORN APPEAR ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

This 14th day of March, 2009


Representative David Scott
Thirteenth District of Georgia

Subscribed and sworn to before
me this 14th day of May, 2009

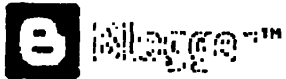


Michael J. Orrick
Notary Public, District of Columbia
My Commission Expires 3/14/2013

EXHIBIT B

29044251779

EXHIBIT C



Push-Button Publishing

Blog has been removed

Sorry, the blog at georgiaunfiltered.blogspot.com has been removed. This address is not available for new blogs.

Did you expect to see your blog here? See: [I can't find my blog on the Web, where is it?](#)

[Home](#) | [Features](#) | [About](#) | [Buzz](#) | [Help](#) | [Discuss](#) | [Language](#) | [Developers](#) | [Gear](#)
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EXHIBIT D

Enter Web Address: <http://>

All

[Take Me Back](#)[Adv. Search](#) [Compare Archive Pages](#)Searched for <http://georgiaunfiltered.blogspot.com/>

6 Results

* denotes when site was updated.

Material typically becomes available here 6 months after collection. [See FAQ.](#)**Search Results for Jan 01, 1996 - Nov 14, 2008**

1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5 pages	1 pages	0
pages	pages	pages	pages	pages	pages	pages	pages	pages	pages			pages
										Apr. 13, 2006 *	Jun 30, 2007 *	
										Jul 17, 2006 *		
										Jul 18, 2006 *		
										Jul 20, 2006 *		
										Jul 21, 2006 *		

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 Blogger

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Georgia Politics Unfiltered



Fiat justitia ruat coelum - Let justice be done though the heavens

Thursday, April 13, 2006

Got a **HOT** Georgi

Send It to the Gec

tips@georgi

Today's "Stupid" Award Goes To...

...Keith Watkins of Atlanta, Georgia for writing what has got to be the most stupid and most ignorant letter to the editor that I have ever read. Here's what Keith Watkins wrote in last week's Creative Loafing:

THIS PHOTO IS

Slavery was the best thing to happen to today's black Americans. Without slavery, there would be virtually no blacks or African-Americans in America. Without the worldwide institution of slavery, blacks would not have been allowed into America. Instead of whites paying reparations to blacks, blacks should be grateful they just live in America. Billions of people around the world are dying to come to America. American blacks should be grateful that slavery brought them here. Finally, if the Colonies could secede from Britain, why couldn't the South secede from the Union?

According to Mr. Watkins, black folks should be glad that white folks sailed to Africa, forcibly removed our ancestors from their homeland, brought them to an unknown new world, and made them work for free while beating them in the process.



Governor

Cathy Cox

Mark Taylor

Lt. Governor

Greg Hacht

Griffin Letson

How's that logic for you?

Continue Reading *"Today's 'Stupid' Award Goes To..."*, . . .

posted by Andre at 10:05 AM | 0 comments | [Link to this post](#)

Allen Thornell Open Thread

Here's something that was published in the AJC this morning:

Allen Thornell, former head of the gay-rights group Georgia Equality, has jumped up to say he wants to replace Orrick in her District 58 House seat. He'd be the first openly gay man in the Legislature. (He and state Rep. Karla Drenner could form the first gay-lesbian caucus in the state Capitol.)

Interestingly, Thornell is also openly HIV-positive. He's infected by the AIDS virus, a fact he found out 12 years ago. He expects the topic to be raised during a campaign that's likely to include a large number of Democratic candidates.

Since I was state Rep. Karla Drenner's legislative aide while Allen Thornell was Executive Director of Georgia Equality, I've had plenty of encounters with him and I never knew that he was HIV positive, and frankly, Allen Thornell being HIV positive matters as much in an election as him being openly gay.

But I'm sure that there will be folks who will try to make Allen's illness an issue in the campaign. So my question is this...

...Would you be less likely to vote for someone who was HIV positive or would you vote for them in spite of their illness? And my follow-up question is if one candidate made their opponent's illness an issue in the campaign, would you be less likely to vote for the candidate that attack their opponent's health and well-being?

posted by Andre at 8:54 AM | 0 comments | [Link to this post](#)

Wednesday, April 12, 2006

Sorry Ass Sonny has no real ideas of his own...

...so he steals everyone else's. Case in point, the "Truth in Class Size" bill that he just signed into law.

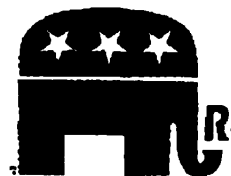
Perdue touted the plan as a response to the concerns of teachers.

Jim Martin
Secretary of State
Gail Buckner
Darryl Hicks
Scott Holcomb
Angela Moore
Walter Ray
Rhyam Reddy
Attorney General
Thurbert Baker
State School Superintendent
Carlotta Harris
Commissioner of
Tommy Irvin
State Insurance
Guy Drexinger
Commissioner of
Mike Thurmond
1st Congressional District
Jim Nelson
2nd Congressional District
Sanford Bishop
3rd Congressional District
Patrick Pillitter
4th Congressional District
Hank Johnson
Cynthia McKelvey
5th Congressional District
John Lewis
6th Congressional District
Stephen Simitis
7th Congressional District
Allen Burns
8th Congressional District
Jim Marshall
12th Congressional District
John Barrow
13th Congressional District
Danzelle Jamison
David Scott



Governor
Garrett Hays
Lt. Governor
Allen Buckley
Secretary of State
Kevin Madsen
Attorney General
Jason McCart

State School Sup
David Chastai



Governor

George "Sonny" Perdue

Lt. Governor

Casey Cagle

Ralph Reed

Secretary of State

Charlie Bailey

Karen Handel

Bill Stephens

Attorney General

Ferry McGuire

State School Sup

Kathy Cox

Commissioner of

Gary Black

Bob Greer

Brian Kemp

Deanna Strickland

State Insurance

John Oxendine

Commissioner of

Brent Brown

Chuck Scheld

1st Congressional

Jack Kingston

2nd Congressional

Brad Hughes

3rd Congressional

Lynn Westmoreland

4th Congressional

Catherine Dhanraj

6th Congressional

John Komer

Tom Price

7th Congressional

John Underwood

8th Congressional

Mac Collins

9th Congressional

Nathan Deal

10th Congressional

Charlie Norwood

11th Congressional

Phil Gingrey

12th Congressional

Max Baucus

13th Congressional

Deborah Haskins

"One of the things they've [Georgia's teachers] been telling me is that they need smaller classes so they can do their jobs more effectively," Perdue said at a bill-signing ceremony at Mirror Lake Elementary School in Villa Rica. "That's what we're doing today - we're helping teachers give students the attention they need."

The effort comes after three years in which Perdue, a Republican, and the GOP-controlled Legislature stalled class size reductions included in a 2000 education-reform package pushed by former Gov. Roy Barnes, a Democrat.

Read the article "[Class-size cuts signed into law by Perdue](#)"

So Sonny Perdue is taking credit for implementing a policy that he stalled for **THREE YEARS!**

Continue Reading "[Sorry Ass Sonny has no real ideas of his own...](#)" . . .

posted by Andre at 6:50 PM | 0 comments | [Link to this post](#)

State Rep. Al Williams' cousin to run for State Rep...

...and his name is Edmond Richardson.

According to the GSU Signal (Georgia State University's student newspaper), Edmond Richardson (who is currently pursuing a Master's of Public Administration at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies) has decided to challenge **state Rep. Howard Mosby (D-Atlanta)** in the Democratic primary for House District 90.

It should be interesting to see whether Al Williams campaigns for his cousin in this race. Edmond Richardson's website is www.edmond4house.org & here's the GSU Signal article on him, "[Edmond for Office: AYSP student runs for government office](#)"

posted by Andre at 12:00 PM | 1 comments | [Link to this post](#)

Quote of the Day: The John Barrow Edition

"If I can't find out from my own government what is going on, it ain't congressional oversight."

-Georgia Congressman John Barrow in the New York Times article "[Lawmaker Upset by Silence on Another Dubai Deal](#)"

posted by Andre at 10:33 AM | 0 comments | [Link to this post](#)

Answering the Georgia G.O.P.'s questions...

I frequently visit the Georgia Republican Party's website just to see what they're saying from time to time, and this morning I came across a press release entitled **"Top 5 Questions Cathy Cox and Mark Taylor Need to Answer"** in which the Georgia G.O.P. asks the following questions of Mark Taylor and Cathy Cox:

1. Do you support Cynthia McKinney's extreme views and outrageous behavior?
2. Where do you stand on gay marriage?
3. As governor, would you have signed the Women's Right to Know bill, requiring a 24-hour waiting period before a woman can have an abortion?
4. Did you support or oppose last year's landmark tort reform legislation?
5. Do you support the illegal immigration legislation passed by the House and Senate this year?

I'm going to take the liberty to answer those questions because...well, I can and I really *really* want to.

1.) I support Cynthia McKinney's willingness to stand up for what she feels is right and to say what she feels is right regardless of what the consequences are because any schmuck on the street can tell people what they want to hear, but it takes **real** guts to tell people what they don't want to hear and then to take heat from them for saying it. Regarding Rep. McKinney's recent behavior, it was unfortunate the way she handled the situation, but she apologized and I consider the matter closed.

Continue Reading "Answering the Georgia G.O.P.'s questions..."

posted by Andre at 9:38 AM | [1 comments](#) | [Links to this post](#)

The Augusta Chronicle gets it right...

...at least when it comes down to politicians trying to appeal to the passions of people on both sides of the illegal immigration debate.

Pro-illegal immigration rallies this week brought them out of the shadows and into the open.

Georgi
Election R

VOTE THE NOT

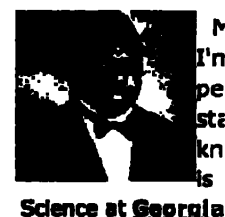
**What is G
Unfiltered**

An uncensored view
world of Georgia po
eyes of an extreme
Georgian.

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Who I am



Science at Georgia

We're not talking about the illegal immigrants; we're talking about the shameless politicians trolling for their votes.

Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., and Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., saw the gold in them there hills of protesters, and took full advantage of it - encouraging the protesters and acting as if the country has oppressed them.

Why? Simple. They and other unscrupulous politicians figure the illegals will be voting in great numbers.

They're selling out America for votes.

Read the op-ed piece "[Our leaders are abandoning us](#)"

When they're right, they're right, and on this subject, the Augusta Chronicle is right.

posted by Andre at 9:06 AM | [0 comments](#) | [Links to this post](#)

Tuesday, April 11, 2006

Sex, Politics, & Religion...

How nasty would politics get if more newspapers followed the lead of the Clayton News-Daily and did background checks on candidates for public office? Would more salacious incidents like this one become public knowledge:

Bobby Newton Sr., a local preacher and candidate vying for the District 1 seat on the Clayton County Commission, was accused by three women in May 2000 of making inappropriate sexual advances, including one incident in which a woman alleged he coerced her into sex by telling her he could 'heal her' of a uterus problem, magistrate court documents show.

The woman told the officer, according to the [warrant]application, that her new employer, Newton, said "he was going to heal her and began touching her breasts, stomach, and buttocks at his desk area."

As she left in "fear," the application says, Newton allegedly told her "to come back tomorrow so he could bathe her in oil from head to toe" and "not to tell anyone, even her husband."

Read the rest of the article "[Woman in 2000 alleged advances by](#)

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Newton Sr."

I'm being facetious here, but why is it that Preachers, Reverends, Bishops, Priests, etc. are always trying to "heal" someone. I guess I should be glad that Bishop Bobby Newton wasn't fondling little choir boys like those Catholic Priests do.

posted by Andre at 10:16 AM | 0 comments | [Link to this post](#)

\$385,549 is a lot for someone who is undecided about running...

...and State Sen. Eric Johnson (R-Savannah) just raised \$79,975 in eight days. Here's what the Savannah Morning News is saying:

If Eric Johnson runs for re-election, the Republican state senator from Savannah won't have an underfunded campaign.

Johnson, who said last week that he hasn't made up his mind whether to run again, reported raising \$79,975 during the first three months of this year.

He received most of the contributions from business, banking and health care industry interests. Jim Walters of Gainesville, whose business was described as "real estate," contributed \$4,000.

Read the article "[Johnson raises \\$79,975 in eight days](#)"

Eric Johnson raised nearly \$80,000 and he's undecided about seeking re-election? I think Sen. Johnson is just hinting at a possible retirement in order to get him some free media attention.

By the way, according to the same article, state Sen. Regina Thomas (D-Savannah) only has \$27 in her campaign war chest.

Could someone please send her some money?

posted by Andre at 9:11 AM | 0 comments | [Link to this post](#)

Keisha Waites to run for Fulton County Commission Chair

For those of you that live in the City of Atlanta, you might remember Keisha Waites from her campaign for Atlanta City Council in 2005 (www.keishawaites.com).

Keisha Waites is billing herself as a "Georgia conservative socialist."

moderate Democrat, and as of right now, I don't believe that there are any other Democrats running for Fulton County Commission Chair, so the nomination is hers to lose.

However, the question du jour is whether Kelsha Waites can win county-wide and beat former Atlanta City Councilman Lee Morris who is billing himself as a moderate Republican and is also running for Fulton County Commission Chair.

posted by Andre at 9:01 AM | 1 comments | [Links to this post](#)

I'm very opinionate
and I like to have m
are important to me
blog; oh and beca
Georgia Blog Orgy a

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[Taeagan Goddard](#)
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[Daily Kos](#)
[MyDR](#)
[Neal Boortz](#)
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[Right Democrat](#)
[Opportunity for](#)
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[Georgia Genera](#)
[U.S. House of R](#)
[U.S. Senate](#)

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[Democratic Nati](#)
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[Libertarian Nati](#)

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Previous

**Today's "Stupid
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**State Rep. Al W
State Rep...**

**Quote of the Da
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**Answering the (
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**The Augusta Ch
Sex, Politics, &
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Georgia Politics Unfiltered

Flat justitia ruat coelum - Let justice be done though the heavens fall

Monday, July 17, 2006

Got a HOT Georgi

Send it to the Gec

tips@georgiaunf

"Georgia Needs A New Governor!"

The following is the full text of a speech that Democratic gubernatorial candidate Mark Taylor gave this afternoon at the 57th Fighter Group Restaurant.

"Thank you Brooke Jackson. You have done a great job as my campaign co-chair.

THIS PHOTO IS

Ladies and gentlemen, Georgia needs a new governor!

(cheers & applause)

And on tomorrow, across the highways and byways and neighborhoods of Georgia, I know you're gonna move out, touch every hand, lead every voter to the polls so we can win a great victory on July 18th.

(cheers & applause)

Ladies and gentlemen, we've got work to do.

Continue Reading ""Georgia Needs A New Governor!""

posted by Andre at 9:37 PM | 1 comments | [Link to this post](#)



Governor

Bill Bolt

Cathy C

Mac Mc

Mark Ta

Lt. Governor

One last (un-proofread) plea from Carlotta Harrell...

The following is the text of an e-mail that I received from the Carlotta Harrell campaign today.

Dear Voters:

Please join me at the polls and help elect Carlotta Harrell as our next State School Superintendent.

We all know that the Georgia's school system does not need another out-of-touch Superintendent. We cannot afford to elect someone who runs for a different office every two years. **This election is about the educational welfare of our children. Parents, Teachers, Paraprofessionals, Principal's, PTA's and PTO's agree with Carlotta that it takes an entire village to raise a child.**

Our village is the State of Georgia and as State School Superintendent, Ms. Harrell will embark on a comprehensive educational strategy that is flexible and promotes innovation; that offers sensible educational choices, that assesses academic progress comprehensively, that honors teaching as a public service and prepares our youth to succeed in the competitive global environment.

Please join me tomorrow, **July 18th** electing **Carlotta Harrell**, Georgia's next State School Superintendent. A person who believes that education transforms lives.

See Ya at the Polls,
Julie Brown

posted by Andre at 9:35 PM | [1 comments](#) | [Link to this post](#)

Perry McGuire leading Thurbert Baker?

I'm questioning the validity and accuracy of an e-mail that was sent out today by the **Perry McGuire for Attorney General** campaign that stated the following:

In a recent statewide voter poll (May 2008 survey of 500 likely voters, +/- 4 percent margin of error), McGuire leads Baker by 20 percentage points when voters are presented with basic biographical statements of each candidate.

Two questions:

Greg He
Griffin L
Jim Mar
Steen "I
Rufus O
Secretary of
Gail Buc
Darryl H
Scott H
Angela I
Walter I
Shyam I
Attorney Gen
Thurber
State School
Carlotta
Denise I
Commissioner
Tommy
State Insura
Guy Ore
Commissioner
Mike Th
1st Congress
Jim Nels
2nd Congress
Sanford
3rd Congress
Mike Mc
4th Congress
John F.
Hank Jo
Cynthia
5th Congress
John Le
6th Congress
Stephen
7th Congress
Allan Bu
8th Congress
Jim Mar
9th Congress
John D.
Bob Lon
10th Congress
Terry H
11th Congress
Patrick I
12th Congress
John Ba

13th Congre
Donzelli
David S

1.) What polling organization/firm conducted this poll?

-and-

2.) Why did the McGuire campaign wait so long to release the results?

posted by Andre at 1:32 PM | 6 comments | [Link to this post](#)

Ten Questions with Angela Moore, Democrat for Secretary of State

As a public service, I'm re-posting my series of "Ten Questions" blog entries with candidates for Georgia's constitutional officers. If you are a candidate for Georgia's Constitutional or Congressional offices and you want to answer my "Ten Questions", then send me an e-mail at andre@georgiaunfiltered.com and I'll forward those questions along to you. This edition of "Ten Questions" is with Angela Moore, a Democrat, who is running for Secretary of State. You can learn more about Angela Moore and his campaign by visiting AngelaSQS08.com.

Why did you get involved in politics?

I realized at a young age that we can be a part of the solution or a part of the problem. I chose to be part of the solution. We all have a stake in the integrity and efficiency of both the local and federal government and our elected officials. I want serve and represent all the people of Georgia including the poor and disenfranchised. This is the way I can best contribute and be a part of the solution.

What are some of your proudest accomplishments as an elected official (or as a private citizen)?

Although I have never been elected to any office, I look forward to leaving behind a legacy during my tenure as Secretary of State that the constituents of Georgia can be excited proud of.

Continue Reading "Ten Questions with Angela Moore, Democrat for Secretary of State"

posted by Andre at 1:05 PM | 1 comments | [Link to this post](#)

Charles Bullock predicts a run-off...

...for the Democratic nomination for Governor.

In an interview with The [Gainesville]Times, Charles Bullock said protest votes from gay voters for the two lesser known candidates could keep either Taylor or Cox from getting the needed 50 percent of the vote.



Governor
Garrett
Lt. Governor
Allen Bu
Secretary of
Kevin M
Attorney Gei
Jason M
State School
David Cl



Governor
Ray "St
George
Lt. Governor
Casey C
Ralph B
Secretary of
Charlie I
Karen H
Eric Mar
Bill Step
Attorney Gei
Perry M
State School
Danny J
Kathy G
Commission
Gary R
Bob Gra
Brian K
Deanna
State Insura
John Ox

"I expect the gubernatorial race could wind up in a runoff," Bullock said. "I think there are gay voters who are going to vote in the Democratic primary."

"There are several gay candidates in the Atlanta area who are running for the state legislature. Those individuals, rather than skipping over the governor's race, could cast a protest vote."

In addition, Bullock said Democratic voters frustrated with the tone of the Taylor and Cox campaigns could lodge protest votes.

Read the Gainesville Times article ["Analysis: Gubernatorial runoff possible for Democrats"](#)

A run-off?

I sure hope not. I mean think about it...

Another three weeks or so of Mark Taylor and Cathy Cox beating up each other on t.v., through the mail, and through flyers...I don't think that even I, a self-professed political junkie, could take it.

Here's an novel idea though...

Continue Reading "Charles Bullock predicts a run-off..."

posted by Andre at **12:11 PM** | **1 comments** | **Links to this post**

Primary Predictions Open Thread

For one reason or another, tomorrow is the day we've all been waiting for; so how do you think things will shape up?

Will Mark Taylor or Cathy Cox win without a run-off?

Who will make the run-off in the Democratic & Republican primaries for Secretary of State? Or will there even be one?

Will Greg Hecht's negative ads cause him to miss the run-off in the Democratic Lt. Governor primary?

Will Ralph Reed's political career end Tuesday night before it even got started?

My predictions are that Mark Taylor will win without a run-off, Karen Handel and Bill Stephens are forced into a run-off, none of the Democratic candidates for Secretary of State will get over 25% of

Commissioner:
Recent Bill:
Chuck S
1st Congress:
Jack Kin
2nd Congress:
Brad Hu
3rd Congress:
Lynn W
4th Congress:
Catherin
6th Congress:
John Ko
Tom Pri
7th Congress:
John Lin
8th Congress:
Mac Coll
James N
9th Congress:
Nathan
10th Congress:
Charles J
11th Congress:
Phil Gin
12th Congress:
Max Bur
13th Congress:
Deborah

Georgi
Election R

VOTE
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What is G
Unfiltered

An uncensored view

Jim Martin In a run-off, Casey Cagle squeaks by Ralph Reed, and Hank Johnson will do better than expected against Cynthia McKinney.

Hell, he might even win.

What are your predictions for tomorrow's primary elections?

posted by Andre at **11:52 AM** | **7 comments** | **[Links to this post](#)**

Friday, July 14, 2006

What the Hecht?

Greg Hecht, you all of us an explanation as to why you decided to go so blantly negative in the last days of the Democratic Lt. Governor campaign.

And to be honest with you, your previous response *"Mr. Martin hit us 4 times first."* just isn't going to cut it.

So here's your last chance before the Tuesday primary to give us proof of Jim Martin's negative attacks, and then to tell us why you and your campaign decided to imply that Jim Martin was (and is) a child-killing, rape supporter...e-mail me at **andre@georgiaunfiltered.com** with your explanation.



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eyes of an extremel
native Georgian.

Email Me with you
concerns about the

Enter your email ad
Georgia Politics U

powered by BlogL

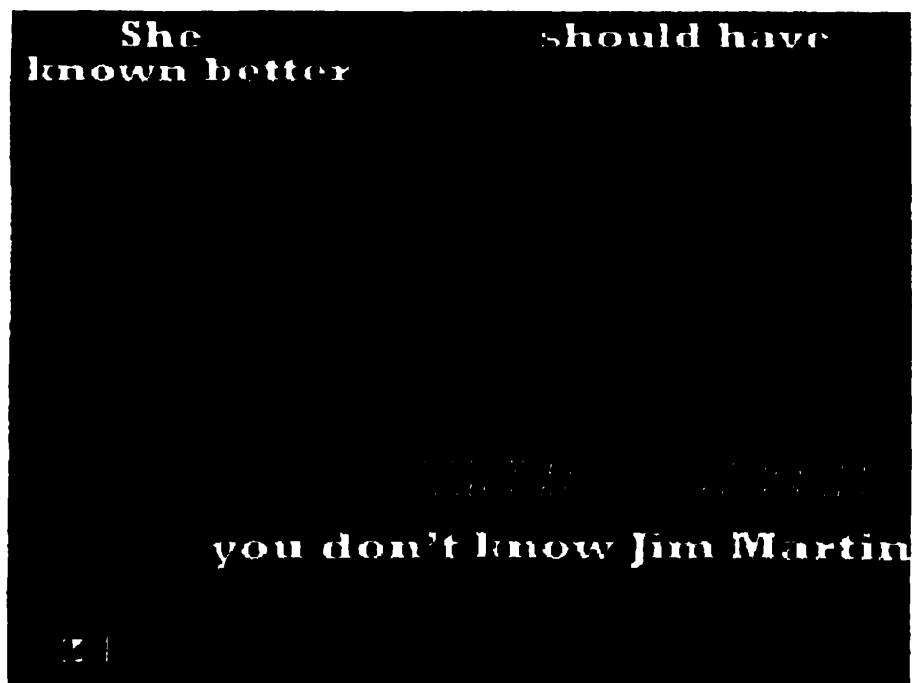
About Me

As I tell my mom,
anything that you
want to know about
me can be found
simply by doing a
"Google search" of
name, 'Andre Walk
& 'Georgia'.

Anything else that
you're just going to
my **MySpace page**

Daily Read

Appalachian Gr
Atlanta Public /
Blog for Democ
QFA's Blog for /
The Buzz Blog
Creative Loaf(n)
Political Party
East Cobber
Empire Fall
Grift Drift
Columbus State
Frustration's bl
Atlanta.Voic.Us
Generation Left
Cynical Geek



posted by Andre at 4:38 PM | 16 comments | [Links to this post](#)

Mark Taylor over 50% in new InsiderAdvantage poll...

The latest InsiderAdvantage/Majority Opinion Research survey shows the Democratic race for governor trending heavily toward Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor...

If the Democratic primary for governor were held today, and the candidates were Cathy Cox and Mark Taylor, would you vote for...

Taylor - 53 percent

Cox - 41 percent

Undecided - 6 percent

The poll was conducted July 12-13, 2006. Sample size - 500 likely Democratic primary voters. Weighted for age, race and gender. Margin of error plus/minus 4 percent

Nationally syndicated columnist (Creators Syndicate) and InsiderAdvantage/Internet News Agency CEO Matt Towery offered the following analysis:

Continue Reading "Mark Taylor over 50% in new InsiderAdvantage poll..."

posted by Andre at 2:19 PM | 1 comments | [Links to this post](#)

Cathy Cox asks Georgia Republicans to cross over

Tegan Goddard
Georgia's Political Daily Kos
MyDD
Neal Beortz
Red State.com
Right Democrat
Opportunity for
The Progressive
Politics101
Chris Is Hardco
Georgia State S
Blog
Jack Kingston's
John Linder's B
Justin Lewis
Peach Pundit
Politics1
Tag Team
Radical Georgia
A "Right" View
The Body Politi
Cracker Squire
VirusHead
WhoDeFolkAreI

The News

The Atlanta Jou
Creative Loafin
11Alive News
WSB-TV Atlanta
Fox5 Atlanta
CBS46 Atlanta
Georgia Daily D
ESPN
CNN
MSNBC
Fox News Chan

The people

Georgia Genera

U.S. House of R
U.S. Senate

...And vote for her in the Democratic primary. In an e-mail sent out today to her supporters, the Cox campaign asks them to do the following:

We need your vote next Tuesday July 18th, but we also need you to spread the word to family and friends who might not traditionally vote in the Democratic Primary. Remind them that, in Georgia, there is no such thing as a "registered" Democrat or Republican - and that voters are free to select either ballot at the polls.

So spread the word far and wide - and make sure you include your Republican and Independent friends as well - that Cathy Cox is the clear choice to move Georgia forward. Urge them to ask for a Democratic ballot next Tuesday and help make Cathy our next governor.

The e-mail is signed by Dan E. Ponder, Jr., a Republican, and the chairman of the Cox campaign.

I'm sorry, but isn't the Democratic primary an opportunity for Democrats to select their Party's nominees to represent them in the General Election. I never knew that the Democratic primary was an opportunity for Republicans to choose their Democratic opponents in the General Election.

Thanks for the notice Dan Ponder.

posted by Andre at 2:03 PM | 7 comments | [Links to this post](#)

Where do the rest of Georgia Republicans stand?

In today's Atlanta Journal-Constitution, it was reported that an overwhelming majority of the Republican members of Georgia's Congressional delegation voted against reauthorizing the voting rights act. (Read the article ["Voting act OK'd in tense House"](#))

Now, the people of Georgia know where Congressmen Nathan Deal, Phil Gingrey, John Linder, Charlie Norwood, Tom Price, and Lynn Westmoreland stand when it comes to protecting America's precious right to vote. (See the [final vote results](#) for [H.R. the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act](#))

Rep. Lynn Westmoreland made it clear that he's going to seek to overturn the will of the majority in the United States House of Representatives by going to his own "activist judges" when he made the following comments, "We needed 218 votes in the House, but we'll only need five votes in the Supreme Court. Justice will prevail. The honor of Georgia will be restored."

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Carlotta Bartell
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Democrat for S
Charles Bullock
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What the Hecht
Mark Taylor ovs
InsiderAdvanta
Cathy Cox asks
cross over...
Where do the r
Republicans sta

Search the

May 2005
June 2005
July 2005
August 2005
September 200

But the real question now is where do the rest of Georgia Republicans stand on this important issue.

Where does Gov. Sonny Perdue stand?

Continue Reading "Where do the rest of Georgia Republicans stand?"

posted by Andre at 1:44 PM | 3 comments | [Link to this post](#)

The Georgia Republican Party's low blow...

This seems to be the week of political low blows. First it was Cathy Cox and her race-baiting tactics. Then it was Greg Hecht implying that Jim Martin was personally responsible for seventy-two kids dying in DFACS custody. Now, it's the Georgia Republican Party implying that Georgia Democrats are the reason why the new sex offender was temporarily halted by Judge Clarence Cooper.

Here's an excerpt from the claims and charges that are leveled from the Georgia GOP's website:

"The will of the people in Georgia is being obstructed by the minority Democrats and their allies who no longer have the ability to stop good, conservative, mainstream legislation from passing," said Georgia Republican Party Executive Director Paul Bennecke. "Using their trial lawyer buddies, they sue and have the legislation overturned by liberal activist judges whose campaigns are funded by the very same trial lawyers."

Georgia's sex offender bill (HB 1059) is designed to crack down on sexual predators by tightening restrictions on where they can live as well as increasing prison sentences. This bill passed overwhelmingly in the House by a vote of 140 to 13 and in the Senate 52 to 1. However, Judge Clarence Cooper ruled to temporarily ban its enforcement.

Because of the Democrats strategy of overturning good, common-sense mainstream laws and because activist judges have allowed them to do this, we have sexual predators and convicted child molesters living near school bus stops...

Read the entirety of ["Activist Judges Last Hope of Democratic Party"](#)

Continue Reading "The Georgia Republican Party's low blow..."

posted by Andre at 1:01 PM | 0 comments | [Link to this post](#)

October 2005
November 2005
December 2005
January 2006
February 2006
March 2006
April 2006
May 2006
June 2006
July 2006

Google

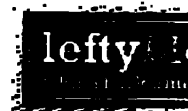
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Geo



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From the tip line: Drexinger takes on Oxendine...again

The following is a press release that I assume was put out by the Drexinger for Insurance Commissioner campaign.

**Contributions to Oxendine from Blue Cross Unethical While
Piedmont
Patients are Denied the Right to Choose Their Own Doctor**

John Oxendine received thousands in campaign contributions from Blue Cross/Blue Shield executives amidst botched Piedmont Healthcare deal.

Guy Drexinger, candidate for Georgia Insurance Commissioner, today strongly criticized Commissioner John Oxendine for accepting large amounts of campaign contributions from Blue Cross/Blue Shield executives—right in the middle of the failed contract negotiations with Piedmont Healthcare.

Continue Reading "From the tip line: Drexinger takes on Oxendine...again"...

posted by Andre at 12:12 PM | 1 comment | [Link to this post](#)

More Election Night Party Details...

Jim Martin is holding his election night party at the Mason Murer Gallery located at 199 Armour Drive, Atlanta, GA 30324.

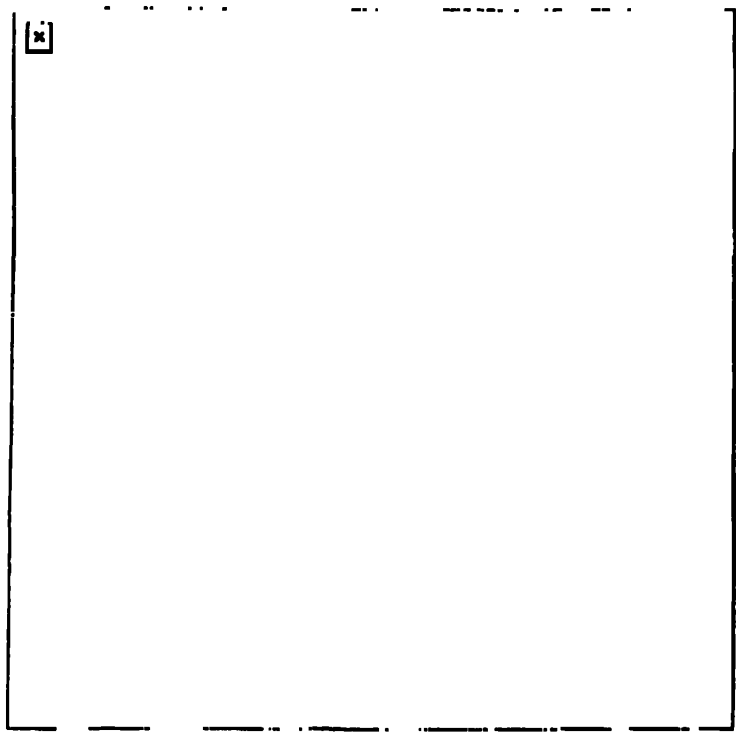
Mark Taylor is holding his election night party at the 12 Atlantic Station Ballroom located at 361 17th Street in Atlanta.

Both parties start at 7PM.

posted by Andre at 12:07 PM | 1 comment | [Link to this post](#)

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Karen Handel's Election Night Party...



posted by Andre at 5:33 PM | [1 comment](#) | [Link to this post](#)

"I never once said my name"...

Back on June 21st, I caught a lot of flack from folks in the comments area of the blog entry entitled "Cathy Cox's web of lies..."

Here's just a sample of what was said:

"Oh come on. More half-truths from the Taylor camp. I'm not certain those first two commercials used in this video are from the advertising campaign the Taylor camp is wasting our time questioning."

-Justin at 1:27PM on 6/21/2006

"Andre. don't tell me you actually think that clip is "the truth"

If it would have shown Cathy saying her name in the actual ad campaign in question we would have seen this on TV with Mark Taylors approval. Instead it shows up on YouTube, posted by an anonymous poster."

-GTdem at 2:25PM on 6/21/2006

Well to all the people, Justin and GTdem Included, who questioned the authenticity of the ads in the YouTube video, I submit to you unaltered footage of at least one of the television ads featured in

the YouTube video posted here on June 21st:

Continue Reading ""I never once said my name"...".

posted by Andre at 4:46 PM | 8 comments | [Links to this post](#)

Who are you voting for? Open Thread

Alright, so we are smack dab in the middle of early voting, and the primary is next Tuesday.

Does anyone want to reveal who they're voting for (or have voted for already)?

Also, if you could tell us why, it'd be greatly appreciated.

And here's a research project for y'all...

If you've got a scanned copy of the alleged negative mailer that the Jim Martin campaign allegedly put out against Greg Hecht, email it to me, and I'll post it on the front page. As is the policy here, your name will remain confidential, after all, I always protect my sources.

posted by Andre at 2:54 PM | 19 comments | [Links to this post](#)

The 527s take their shots at Ralph Reed

Click [here](#) to listen to the radio ad that **CampaignMoney.org** is running against Ralph Reed.

According to their website, this radio ad began running on May 17th.

"Campaign Money Watch, a citizen watchdog group, began airing a 60-second advertisement on several stations in Georgia today as the first part of an effort to educate Georgia voters about Ralph Reed's connections to gambling interests, the Jack Abramoff scandal, and other special interest lobbyists and donors.

Campaign Money Watch's director David Donnelly said that Georgia voters should consider Reed's role in one of the nation's most significant corruption scandals in history." [Read the rest of the press release entitled **"Radio Ad: Ralph Reed took \$4 million in gambling money to fight...gambling?!"**]

I hope this isn't a prelude to big money and big ads flowing into Georgia just to defeat Ralph Reed in the event he's the Republican nominee for Lt. Governor.

posted by Andre at **10:55 AM** | **0 comments** | **[Links to this post](#)**

10 Questions with Scott Holcomb, Democrat for Secretary of State

As a public service, I'm re-posting my series of "Ten Questions" blog entries with candidates for Georgia's constitutional officers. If you are a candidate for Georgia's Constitutional or Congressional offices and you want to answer my "Ten Questions", then send me an e-mail at andre@georgiaunfiltered.com and I'll forward those questions along to you. This edition of "Ten Questions" is with Scott Holcomb, a Democrat, who is running for Secretary of State. You can learn more about Scott Holcomb and his campaign by visiting [Scott Holcomb.com](http://ScottHolcomb.com).

Why did you get involved in politics?

Politics is a natural extension of my life-long commitment to service. Right now, Republicans in Georgia and Washington are jeopardizing our most fundamental American values. Democracy is being challenged. Equality is being challenged. Fairness is being challenged. These are the values that I fought for overseas as a soldier, and they're the values that I'll fight for at home as Secretary of State.

I've learned from my experiences in my community, in the military, and as a lawyer that you can't change things unless you get a seat at the table. I'm running to get that seat at the table, and to use it to help make Georgia a better state.

[Continue Reading "10 Questions with Scott Holcomb, Democrat for Secretary of State". . .](#)

posted by Andre at **10:23 AM** | **1 comments** | **[Links to this post](#)**

Guest Blogger: Robert Bunn, on Greg Hecht's Negative Mailer

The following guest blog entry is by Robert Bunn, the individual that provided me with scans of the negative mailer done by the Greg Hecht for Lt. Governor campaign.

A Reality Check On Hecht's Ad

Anyone with any usage of the left side of their brain will have seen, by now, the advertisement in Andre's post (**[Greg Hecht's Low Blow](#)**) was sent to me. Now I do not have to say where I stand on Hecht, a past post from me certainly laid my reasoning for ignoring him pretty much to bare. Now, I find that piece of negative garbage in my mailbox and suddenly any remaining interest in even to be

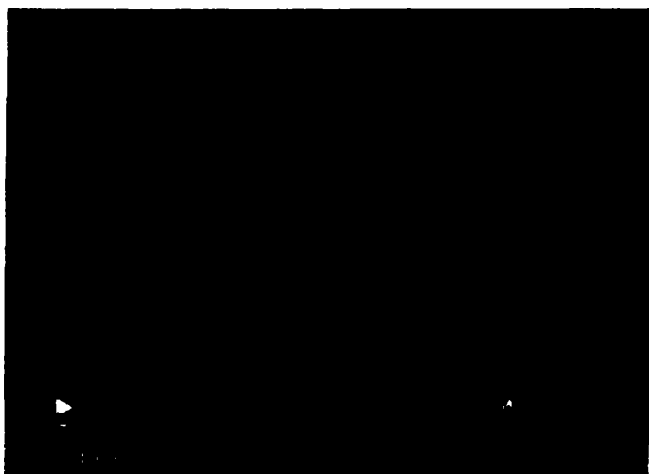
You see in almost every commentary I've made anywhere about this election cycle in Georgia, I have repeatedly commented that things could be worse. We could have the same mindset in political advertising in the lower ballot races that we have at the top of the ballot. I held the Lt. Governor race as a great example of four solid candidates just marketing their strengths and being willing and able to leave all the others standing strong (win or lose) at the end. That consideration ended; and it ended with the name Greg Hecht attached to it. I now have his name associated in my head with Cox and Taylor, which is already a great argument for a "none of the above" check box.

Continue Reading "Guest Blogger: Robert Bunn, on Greg Hecht's Negative Mailer" . . .

posted by Guest Blogger at 9:58 AM | 3 comments | [Link to this post](#)

Cathy Cox, Lisa Borders, & Plantation Politics...

The Cox campaign has a new t.v. ad out the features an endorsement from Atlanta City Council President Lisa Borders...



However, behind the scenes and away from the cameras, Cathy Cox continues to resort to plantation politics as is exhibited by the following flyer that they're distributing in the African-American community...

29044251805



posted by Andre at [9:39 AM](#) | [1 comments](#) | [Links to this post](#)

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

GPU Online Poll: Who won tonight's debate?

Who won tonight's
debate between the
Democratic candidates
for Governor of
Georgia?

- ☐ Bill Bolton
- ☐ Cathy Cox
- ☐ Mac McCarley
- ☐ Mark Taylor
- ☐ Don't Know/Not
Sure/Undecided

[Vote](#)

[View](#)

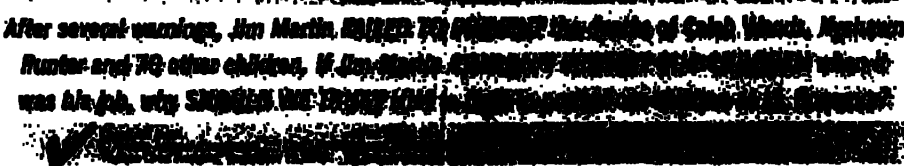
[Free polls from Pollhost.com](#)

posted by Andre at [9:07 PM](#) | [2 comments](#) | [Links to this post](#)

Greg Hecht's Low Blow...

All I have to say is no comment. This is the lowest of the low.

☐ hecht-1



Cathy Cox Primary Watch Party Details...

<http://web.archive.org/web/20060718201301/http://georgiaunfiltered.blogspot.com/>

After spending the day knocking on doors or making phone calls to bring Cathy to victory, there is no better way to celebrate than by joining the party at the official Cathy Cox Election Night Headquarters.

Our victory celebration will be held at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Atlanta, (265 Peachtree Street Northeast) and is free and open to the public. It will be a night of food, drinks, music and fun as we celebrate all the hard work we've done so far.

The party will begin at 8:30 PM and will go until the last ballot has been counted. So, join us as we watch the election results roll in on giant screens and, of course, hear from the next Governor of Georgia, Cathy Cox.

Don't miss out on this very special event - join us Tuesday night, July 18 at 8:30 PM in the International Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency.

posted by Andre at **1:37 PM** | **3 comments** | **[Links to this post](#)**

The Georgia Congressional Money Primary

1st Congressional District:

Jack Kingston, Republican: **\$923,995.00** net cash on hand

Jim Nelson, Democrat: **\$2,885.00** net cash on hand

2nd Congressional District

Sanford Bishop, Democrat: **\$449,323.00** net cash on hand

Brad Hughes, Republican: **\$3,743.00** net cash on hand

Continue Reading "The Georgia Congressional Money Primary"....

posted by Andre at **1:30 PM** | **3 comments** | **[Links to this post](#)**

Gail Buckner leads in a poll...

...and Scott Holcomb was left out.

If the Democratic primary for Secretary of State were held today, whom would you vote for Gail Buckner, Darryl Hicks, Angela Moore, Walter Ray, or Shaym Reddy? (Democrats only)

Gail Buckner 28%

Shaym Reddy 18%

Darryl Hicks 9%

Angela Moore 8%

Walter Ray 4%

Undecided 35%

[Click here](#) for the entire results of the latest Strategic Vision poll

I don't think that these new numbers can be entirely accurate if they don't include all of the Democratic candidates for Secretary of State.

I don't know if Holcomb's absence from this Strategic Vision poll was intentional or not, but I certainly believe that some of that "35% Undecided" might be where his support lies.

posted by Andre at 11:40 AM | 2 comments | [Link to this post](#)

\$336,000 for a job that pays \$16,200?

Someone has got to explain to me why Lee Hawkins, Mark Musselwhite, and Jeff Williams collectively raised over \$336,000 to campaign for a job that only pays \$16,200 a year.

The race to replace Casey Cagle in the state Senate is shaping up as one of the most expensive legislative primary races of the year.

University of Georgia political science professor Charles Bullock said the \$336,000 combined war chests of the three candidates in District 49 is not an all-time record, but \$200,000 is a "pretty big commitment for a Senate race."

Bullock said typical spending for a state Senate race is between \$50,000 and \$75,000.

In neighboring Forsyth County, three candidates are vying for the state Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Bill Stephens, R-Canton, who is running for Secretary of State.

In that race, the three candidates have raised a combined \$309,000 and spent a total of \$161,000 for an open seat.

Read the article ["Senate race is getting pricey"](#).

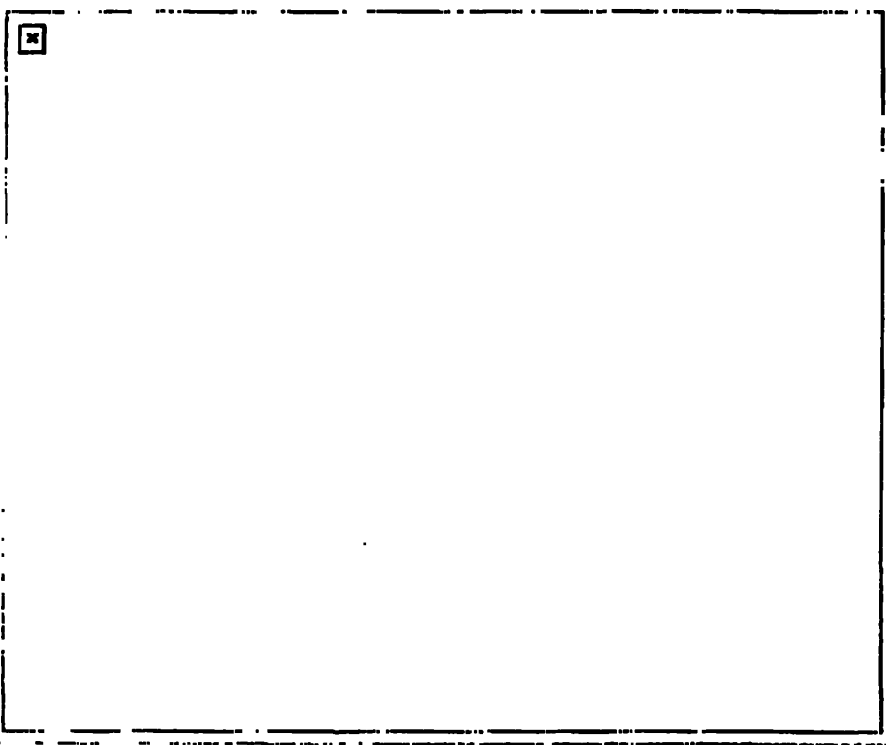
I just don't get it.

Continue Reading "\$336,000 for a job that pays \$16,200?" . . .

posted by Andre at 11:16 AM | 2 comments | [Link to this post](#)

From the tip line: Cathy Cox's low blow...

This definitely ranks as one of the lowest form of political attacks that I've ever seen. Below is a flyer that the Cox for Governor campaign is distributing in order to "scare" black folks into voting for her.



And the proof that it came from the Cox campaign is in the bottom, right-hand corner of the flyer highlighted in red. I've zoomed in so everyone can see for themselves...



But wait, it gets worse...

Continue Reading "From the tip line: Cathy Cox's low blow..." . . .

posted by Andre at 10:42 AM | 7 comments | [Link to this post](#)

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Here's a new blog for you...

...Women for Taylor.

Here's an excerpt from their front page:

We are a group of women who support Lt. Governor Mark Taylor's candidacy to be the next Governor of Georgia! We believe that Mark is the best candidate to support women's issues.

Apparently, the Women for Taylor blog has been around since February but it was conveniently over-looked until now. From the looks of it, Sascha Taylor, the Big Guy's wife, is a regular contributor.

posted by Andre at [6:35 PM](#) | [0 comments](#) | [Links to this post](#)

Wesley Clark endorses Scott Holcomb...

In an e-mail sent out to supporters today, Democrat Scott Holcomb, a candidate for Secretary of State announced the following endorsement:

"We had an unbelievably successful week, and our momentum as we approach the election is unmatched by any other campaign.

I'm proud to announce that General Wesley Clark, a retired four-star general, former NATO Supreme Allied Commander, and Democratic presidential candidate in 2004, has endorsed my campaign for Secretary of State. It is truly an honor to earn the support of a man who has dedicated so much of his life to serving our nation."

Does this new endorsement change the dynamics of the race or even help Scott Holcomb with fundraising in the last week of the campaign?

I don't know, we'll just have to wait and see.

posted by Andre at [3:54 PM](#) | [3 comments](#) | [Links to this post](#)

Democratic State School Superintendent Online Poll

If the primary

election for the
Democratic
nomination for
State School
Superintendent
were held today,
would you vote
for...

- ☐ Carliotta Harrell
- ☐ Denise Majette
- ☐ Undecided/Don't
Know/Not Sure

Free polls from
Pollhost.com

posted by Andre at 3:35 PM | [1 comments](#) | [Links to this post](#)

The Georgia Money Primary, part four

For the results of the first money primary, please read the 7/11/2005 blog entry "[Here are the results of the 'money' primary](#)"; for the results of the second "money primary", read the 1/10/2006 blog entry "[The Money Primary...part two](#)"; and for the results of the third money primary, read the 4/10/2006 blog entry "[The Georgia Money Primary, part three](#)..."

Governor:

Cathy Cox, Democrat: **\$560,379.26** net cash on hand
Sonny Perdue, Republican: **\$9,058,817.67** net cash on hand
Mark Taylor, Democrat: **\$1,127,634.44** net cash on hand

Lt. Governor

Casey Cagle, Republican: **\$813,284.75** net cash on hand
Greg Hecht, Democrat: **\$269,462.72** net cash on hand

Continue Reading "[The Georgia Money Primary, part four](#)"

posted by Andre at 3:15 PM | [0 comments](#) | [Links to this post](#)

Hank Johnson now the front-runner?

for Congress campaign put out today:

Amid a series of endorsements and impressive debate performances, former DeKalb commissioner Henry "Hank" Johnson's campaign to unseat Cynthia McKinney in the July 18th Democratic primary is rapidly building momentum. The race remains close with strong indications Johnson has moved to a front-runner position.

As the gap between Johnson and McKinney has closed, the McKinney campaign has gone to great lengths to avoid facing Johnson on television. McKinney failed to show up at either of the weekend's major televised debates, attracting negative media attention and disgust from voters seeking an open discussion of the issues.

Johnson's campaign has attracted widespread support and national media attention. He will be featured this week on the nationally-syndicated television program "Hannity & Colmes," where he will defend his progressive vision. Black Entertainment Television (BET) speculated in an article on Monday that McKinney is "on the ropes" and warned her to "keep her eye" on the race.

What do y'all think?

Could an upset be in the making next Tuesday?

Honestly, I think it's a big stretch, and just in case you're interested, here's the BET article that the Johnson campaign is citing in its press release **"Rep. McKinney Might Want to Keep Her Eye on Georgia's Primary"**.

posted by Andre at 12:51 PM | 0 comments | [Links to this post](#)

Guest Blogger: Robert Bunn

On Wednesday July 5th, on the front page of the Metro and State section of the A.J.C., David Chastain, the Libertarian candidate for State School Superintendent, won some brownie points from me. You see he said, *"There's no reason for politicizing this office. It's just stupid."*

You see Chastain wants to win the office to help phase it out.

Currently, the Governor appoints every member of the State School Board except the Superintendent. This is exactly the opposite of every county school board in the state. The qualifications to become a county level School Board Super outweighs the qualifications for holding the state wide job almost 1000 times. In Chastain's view

words *"The truth is none of the candidates, including me, is qualified to be state school superintendent."*

While the remainder of the article is not at all flattering of Mr. Chastain, as he makes light of himself and his chances to win, I find his point worthy of notice. Andre, the owner of Georgia Unfiltered, himself has often commented on the Democratic candidates. I never really knew what to think of his commentary other than a slight agreement that we could do better. Now I'm certain of it; we can do much better.

Continue Reading *"Guest Blogger: Robert Bunn"*

posted by Guest Blogger at 10:10 AM | 0 comments | [Link to this post](#)

Cathy Cox raised over \$5.6 million...

...but only has \$560,379 of it left according to the **Savannah Morning News**:

Democratic candidate for governor Mark Taylor entered the final weeks of the primary election campaign with a big financial advantage over Cathy Cox.

Reports on file with the State Ethics Commission showed that, as of June 30, Taylor, the lieutenant governor, had \$1.12 million on hand. Cox, the secretary of state, reported having \$560,379.

"That's quite a difference," said Charles Bullock, a professor of political science at the University of Georgia. "If she doesn't raise a lot more right away, it looks like he'll be able to run about twice as many ads as she can. She's going to have to play catch-up."

Read the article **"Report: Taylor has financial edge over Cox"**

To be fair, if Mark Taylor had not loaned his campaign a million dollars, then it could be conceivable that he'd only have \$120,000 left in his campaign coffers today, so in hindsight, that million dollar loan was a smart move by the Taylor camp.

Continue Reading *"Cathy Cox raised over \$5.6 million..."*

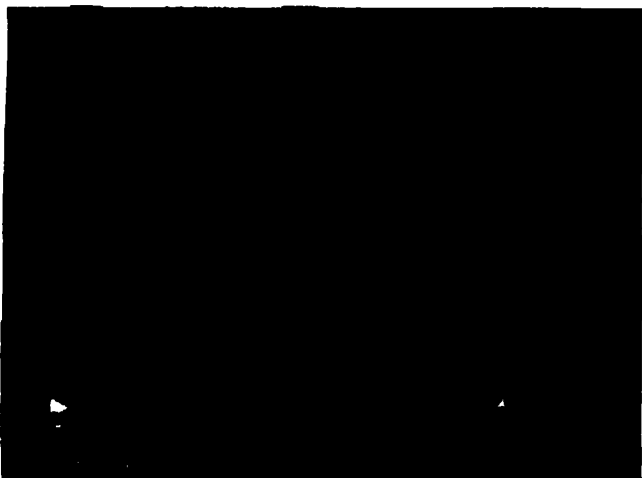
posted by Andre at 10:00 AM | 0 comments | [Link to this post](#)

Ads, ads, and more ads...

This morning I received e-mails from the Angela Moore campaign

respective candidates' campaign. Here are both ads for your viewing pleasure:

Angela Moore



Scott Holcomb



And of course, back on June 28th, I broke the story that Shyam Reddy was getting ready to go on tv with his ads (Read the blog entry: ["From the tip line: Shyam Reddy's tv commercials..."](#)). Well, here it is:

[Continue Reading "Ads, ads, and more ads..."](#)

posted by Andre at [9:37 AM](#) | [2 comments](#) | [Links to this post](#)

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Hank Johnson signs on to
Cheney's Impeachment - Jun
29

*From The Hill: [Rep. Jim]
McDermott (D -Wash.) was
one of three House
Democrats to come out in
favor... (more)*

FROM THE HILL

Friday, June 29, 2007

Hank Johnson signs on to Cheney's impeachment

From The Hill:

[Rep. Jim]McDermott (D -Wash.) was one of three House Democrats to come out in favor of impeachment Thursday, along with Reps. Keith Ellison (Minn.) and Hank Johnson (Ga.). Including the three lawmakers, seven members in June have shown new support for impeaching Cheney.

Johnson cited [...] Cheney's refusal to cooperate with the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO), which, pursuant to an order signed by President Clinton, oversees the handling of classified documents by executive agencies; in his decision to support impeachment. [Source: 6/29/2007 The Hill article "McDermott to Cheney: 'Resign or face Impeachment'"]

Cheney's comment about not being a part of the Executive Branch (even though now he's reversed his position) is coming back to bite him in the butt.

I applaud Congressman Johnson for signing on to the **articles of impeachment against Dick Cheney**. The question now in my mind is if John Lewis will sign on as well.

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 4:09 PM 3 COMMENTS [LINKS TO THIS POST](#)

LABELS: [DEMOCRATS](#), [U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES](#)

29044251815

infighting...except on the
PSC - Jun 29
State Public Service
Commission Chairman Bobby
Baker wants the lawsuit
questioning whether he...
(more)

In regards to the Supreme
Court's ruling, answer
these questions... - Jun 29
...If you've got a community
where a majority of the
people are black and as a
result a majority of...(more)

Quote of the Day: the
Hillary Clinton edition -
Jun 29

Democratic Presidential
candidates debate
tonight - Jun 28
In Washington, Democratic
presidential candidates
Joseph R. Biden Jr., Hillary
Rodham Clinton,...(more)

Widget by Beautiful Beta

About Georgia Unfiltered

An uncensored view inside of
the mad, mad world of
Georgia politics as seen
through the eyes of an
extremely ambitious &
politically active native
Georgian.

Email Me! with your
questions, thoughts, and
concerns about the state of
politics in Georgia.



More Republican infighting...except on the PSC

State Public Service Commission Chairman Bobby Baker wants the lawsuit questioning whether he really lives in Athens to be dismissed because it took so long to be filed.

Thomson resident Roger Dozier and Eleanor McMannon filed the suit in August, claiming that Baker does not really live in the district he represents at the PSC but instead spends most of his time at a DeKalb County house listed in his wife's name.

Dozier ran against Baker in 2004, losing to him in the Republican primary. [Source: 6/28/2007 Athens Banner-Herald article "PSC chair fights demands he be removed over DeKalb residency"]

Georgia law requires that in order to be elected as a member of the Commission from a Public Service Commission District, a person must have resided in that district for at least 12 months prior to election thereto and must continue to reside in that district during that person's term of office. O.C.G.A. § 46-2-1(b)

Read More...

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 12:01 PM 0 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: REPUBLICANS

In regards to the Supreme Court's ruling, answer these questions...

...If you've got a community where a majority of the people are black and as a result a majority of the student population at the local schools are black, then is it the responsibility of the government to bus white kids into the schools in order to achieve racial diversity.

If you've got a community where a majority of the people are white and as a result a majority of the student population at the local schools are white, then is it the responsibility of the government to bus black kids into the schools in order to achieve racial diversity.

If you're a white parent, would you object to the school district telling you that your child won't be attending the school three minutes around the corner and instead will be attending a school three hours down the road simply because the school around the corner has too many white kids and the school three hours down the road has too few.

If you're a black parent, would you object to the school district telling you that your child won't be attending the school three minutes down the street and instead will be attending a school three hours up the road simply because the school down the street has too many black kids and the school three hours up

About me

As I tell my mom, anything that you want to know about me can be found simply by doing a "Google search" of my name, 'Andre Walker' & 'Georgia'.

Anything else that you want to know about me, you're just going to have to find out by visiting my MySpace page.

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the road has too few.

I think that these questions are at the crux of yesterday's Supreme Court ruling as well as the lawsuit that precipitated the ruling.

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 11:32 AM 1 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: OPINIONS

Quote of the Day: the Hillary Clinton edition



POSTED BY ANDRE AT 10:34 AM 3 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: HILLARY CLINTON

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Democratic Presidential candidates debate tonight

In Washington, Democratic presidential candidates Joseph R. Biden Jr., Hillary Rodham Clinton, Christopher J. Dodd, John Edwards, Mike Gravel, Dennis J. Kucinich, Barack Obama and Bill Richardson participate in the live All-American Presidential Forum 9-10:30 p.m., 2455 Sixth Street, N.W., Crampton Auditorium, Howard University.

This debate will be broadcast live on PBS.

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 4:28 PM 1 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: AMERICA 2008, DEMOCRATS

Chambliss & Isakson both vote no on immigration bill

The Senate drove a stake Thursday through President Bush's plan to legalize millions of unlawful immigrants, likely postponing major action on immigration until after the 2008 elections.

The News

The Atlanta Journal-
Constitution

Creative Loafing

11Alive News

WSB-TV Atlanta

Fox5 Atlanta

CBS46 Atlanta

Georgia Daily Digest

CSPAN

CNN

MSNBC

Fox News Channel

**The People Who
Make Our Laws**

Georgia General Assembly

U.S. House of
Representatives

U.S. Senate

**State & National
Political Parties**

Democratic Party of
Georgia

Georgia Republican Party

Libertarian Party of
Georgia

Georgia Green Party

Democratic National
Committee

Republican National
Committee

Libertarian National
Committee

Green Party National
Committee

Categories

10th Congressional
District (45)

2007 Legislative Session
(95)

4th of July (1)

8th Congressional District

The bill's supporters fell 14 votes short of the 60 needed to limit debate and clear the way for final passage of the legislation, which critics assailed as offering amnesty to illegal immigrants. The vote was 46 to 53 in favor of limiting the debate. [Source: 6/28/2007 AJC article "Senate blocks Bush's immigration bill"]

How did Georgia's Senators vote on the motion to limit debate?

They both voted no (**Senate Vote #235**).

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 12:08 PM 0 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: ISSUES, U.S. SENATE

Can you believe this guy supports Obama?

Neither can I, but apparently Matthew Lesko is an Obama fan.

Maryland resident Matthew Lesko – the author and infomercial personality who has been telling Americans how they can get free services and money from the federal government for years – proudly displays a Barack Obama bumper sticker on his question mark-covered car, and confirmed that he is supporting the Illinois senator for president.

Lesko says he plans on heading up to the Granite State sometime in the near future and knocking on doors for the campaign. [Source: 6/28/2007 MSNBC First Read article "'Question Mark Guy' Loves Obama"]

So, the guy that has literally annoyed millions of Americans with his offensively loud question mark jacket and even louder rants about how the government has got all this money out there and plans to give it away for free is supporting Barack Obama for President.

Yeah, that's the way to get elected President; get some jerk that appears on late night infomercials to endorse your campaign.

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 11:22 AM 2 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: AMERICA 2008, BARACK OBAMA, DEMOCRATS

**Hillary sure knows how to keep the Chatham Dems
happy...**

...the local Democratic Party netted about \$15,000 at its annual Buttimer Awards Dinner on June 9.

Ads (4)
 America 2008 (42)
 Atlanta Mayoral Contest (2)
 Barack Obama (5)
 Blogs (2)
 Candidates (3)
 Casey Cagle (2)
 City of South Fulton (29)
 Clayton County (1)
 Comedy (4)
 Congress (11)
 David Scott (4)
 Debates (2)
 DeKalb County (1)
 Democratic National Convention (5)
 Democrats (119)
 Election 2006 (12)
 Election 2007 (12)
 Election 2008 (36)
 Election 2009 (2)
 Elections (28)
 Events (2)
 Florida (8)
 Fulton County (22)
 Georgia (6)
 Georgia General Assembly (109)
 Glenn Richardson (2)
 Hillary Clinton (7)
 Issues (124)
 John Barrow (1)
 Johnny Isakson (3)
 Legislation (2)
 Meetings (1)
 Misc. (39)
 Misc.. (1)
 News (20)
 Opinions (17)
 Peachtree Road Race (3)
 Politics elsewhere (5)
 Polls (12)
 Presidential contest (31)
 Public Service Commission (1)
 Quote of the Day (12)
 Reapportionment (1)
 Re-election (1)

Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's campaign purchased a \$200 ad in the program.
 [Source: 6/28/2007 Savannah Morning News column "Is Chambliss vulnerable in 2008?"]

Here's what Chatham County Dems Vice-Chair Joe Steffen had to say:

"It's tremendously exciting, and a bit unusual, for a National Candidate to recognize the efforts of a local Party Committee...we consider it recognition for a job well done."

All I have to say is that the Hillary campaign knows how to keep county & state Democratic parties happy. And I think it also shows that she's committed to Democratic victories across the board and not just at the White House. The \$200 that she contributed to the Chatham County Democratic Party will go a long way towards keeping Democrats down there competitive.

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 11:09 AM 0 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: DEMOCRATS, HILLARY CLINTON

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Robb Pitts wants Grady to sue deadbeat counties...

...It's possible that in the future, Fulton County, on behalf of Grady Memorial Hospital, could sue other county governments or the state for services rendered, if they don't pay for the work the state's only Level 1 trauma center does for their residents.

District-2 at-large Fulton County Commissioner Rob Pitts has been looking into this since June 8, asking County Attorney Paula Morgan Nash to research the legality of such a suit.

"My hope and prayer is that [the counties] would pay voluntarily," he said. "We pay what we owe them, and they pay what they owe us ... I think [political leaders in other counties] will come to understand there is a problem here and they have a stake in Grady Hospital, and everyone needs to pay their fair share." [Source: 6/27/2007 South Fulton Neighbor article "Pitts: County mulling lawsuits to help Grady collect on bills"]

I don't think that such a bad idea. According to the article, Grady still has \$37,327,527 in outstanding bills from other counties, even after writing off \$21,217,797. For the longest, Fulton and DeKalb county taxpayers have been paying for other counties in the metro-Atlanta area to use Grady. Now Grady is on the brink of collapse (Read the 11Alive article "Report Gives Grim Outlook for Grady").

Read More...

Republicans (61)
 Saxby Chambliss (17)
 schools (1)
 Sports (6)
 Ten Questions (13)
 U.S. House of
 Representatives (21)
 U.S. Senate (32)
 U.S. Senate. Saxby
 Chambliss (1)
 Vernon Jones (7)

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 ► 2005 (359)

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POSTED BY ANDRE AT 6:27 PM 0 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: FULTON COUNTY

Jill Chambers' MySpace page

In case you missed it, state Rep. Jill Chambers (R - Atlanta) has a MySpace page. It's located at <http://web.archive.org/web/20070630210153/http://www.myspace.com/staterepchambers>, and I have to say that she has good taste in music. Linkin Park is a good band and good music, and Rep. Chambers has a song of theirs on her MySpace. I think that's great.

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 5:45 PM 1 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY, REPUBLICANS

Athens paper calls Broun "opportunistic" then endorses him...

...This endorsement by the Athens Banner-Herald of Republican Paul Broun is an endorsement that is designed to leave a bad taste in your mouth.

Sure, he's an opportunist - but at least he'll be our opportunist, taking some knowledge of this area and its needs to Washington, and at least he'll only have a year or so in the nation's capital before he has to come back in front of the voters for a referendum on his performance.

Frankly, those are the best reasons this newspaper's editorial board can find to endorse Dr. Paul Broun - an Oconee County physician and frequent failed candidate for elected office - in the July 17 runoff for Georgia's 10th Congressional District... [Source: 6/27/2007 Athens Banner-Herald article "Broun is best choice for the 10th District"]

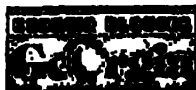
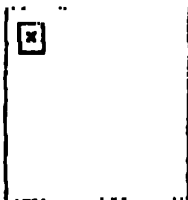
The summary of the paper's endorsement of Broun is that he's run for office several times...and lost. He began raising money to run this time long before Charlie Norwood's other foot was in the grave. But, despite all of that, he's still the best choice for Congress because he's not Jim Whitehead.

If I were Paul Broun, I don't know if I would be happy or mad about receiving this endorsement. It's almost as if the Athens Banner-Herald is saying, "We had to pick someone, so we decided to pick you."


POSTED BY ANDRE AT 1:38 PM 0 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, REPUBLICANS

29044251821



Georgia Bloggers

 StatCounter - Free Web Tracker

 **BLOGSHARES**

Georgia ranks near the bottom in healthcare, part 2

Newsweek magazine put together this map of analyzing the research done by the **Commonwealth Fund** in regards to healthcare in America.



POSTED BY ANDRE AT 1:10 PM 1 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: ISSUES

Cheney & Chambliss flip flop...

...Let me start with Cheney:

First he says that he isn't a part of the Executive Branch (Read "**I'm convinced...Dick Cheney needs to be impeached**"), now he says he is [Source: 6/27/2007 The Politico article "**Dems force Cheney flip-flop on secret docs**"].

And now on to Chambliss...

Remember this picture:

Yep, that's Saxby Chambliss smiling with Ted Kennedy at a news conference last month to announce a compromise on immigration legislation with the White House.



It was reported in the AJC that *Sen. Saxby Chambliss [...] unveiled a bipartisan compromise bill intended to curb illegal immigration* [Source: 6/8/2007 AJC article "**Immigration bill troubles Taskenn Chambliss**"] Then Saxby not

an earful from his constituents and an anti-illegal immigration group began running ads against him. In fact, Saxby got booed at the Georgia GOP State Convention for defending the bill [Source: 6/15/2007 Access North Georgia article "McCain "guardedly optimistic" about immigration bill"]; so what did Saxby do?

Read More...

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 12:15 PM 0 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: REPUBLICANS, SAXBY CHAMBLISS

Strategic Vision consistent (almost) w/Georgia Unfiltered straw polls

Earlier this year, I conducted a non-scientific straw poll for the 2008 Democratic Presidential Primary here in Georgia. The results were as follows:

Hillary Clinton - 32%

Barack Obama - 33%

John Edwards - 15%

Today, Strategic Vision has a poll out that says about the same thing the Georgia Unfiltered Democratic straw poll said...the Democratic Presidential Primary, in Georgia, is a statistical dead heat.

For the 2008 Democratic Presidential Nomination whom would you support?
(Democrats Only)

Hillary Clinton - 29%

Barack Obama - 26%

John Edwards - 18%

Click here for the full results of the June 2007 Strategic Vision poll.

Read More...

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 10:42 AM 0 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: POLLS

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

I re-vamped the Georgia Unfiltered tip line [UPDATED]

[UPDATE]: One more thing, if you don't have the **Mozilla web browser**, please download it. I've reached the point where I've grown tired of designing this site for both Mozilla *and* Microsoft Internet Explorer, and quite frankly, I'm not going to do it anymore. Download Mozilla today; it's free and it's a much better web browser!

Before, if anyone had a juicy piece of news regarding Georgia Politics, they had to send it to me via e-mail, and their identifying information was all over it.

Now, with the use of a feedback form powered by **Feedback.com**, those of you with news tips can submit them with a complete guarantee of anonymity.

I've posted the new Georgia Unfiltered tip line in the upper left-hand corner of this site and I hope y'all will take the opportunity to use it.

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 7:51 PM 5 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

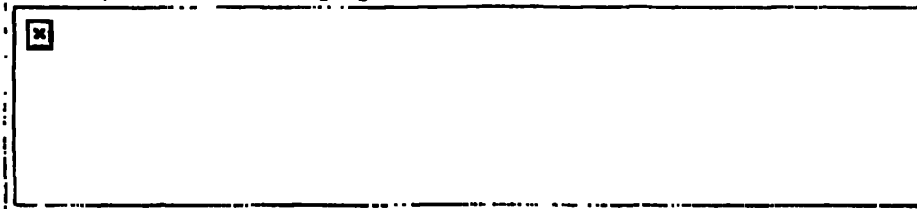
LABELS: MISC.

The Peachtree Road Race is next week...

...And I'll be running my 6th Peachtree. I'm in time group 6, which is around the middle of the pack (there are 9 time groups).

Is there anyone else that'll be running the Peachtree?

And one more thing, which one of these shirts do you think will be the 2007 Peachtree t-shirt...



I like the 4th design.

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 2:55 PM 0 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: PEACHTREE ROAD RACE

Chambliss & Isakson vote against cloture on immigration bill

Last week, **CQ Politics** reported that Georgia Senators Chambliss and Isakson planned on voting against the cloture motion on the immigration

29044251823

reform bill when it came back before the Senate.

According to the article, Isakson said he and Chambliss had heard from voters back home that they didn't have faith in another measure that promises border action because past promises have yet to be fulfilled.

Today, Georgia's Senators joined 35 of their colleagues in opposing the motion to limit debate on **S.1639**.

However, the Senate will proceed with the consideration of the immigration bill because the motion to limit debate received the requisite 60 votes (the motion received 64 votes in favor).

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 12:36 PM 0 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: ISSUES, U.S. SENATE

Isakson & Chambliss vote against employee free choice

Today, Georgia Senators Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson voted against the procedural motion authorizing the Senate to begin debate on the **Employee Free Choice Act; H.R. 800**.

The Employee Free Choice Act is a bill that would do the following:

- Establish stronger penalties for violation of employee rights when workers seek to form a union and during first-contract negotiations.
- Provide mediation and arbitration for first-contract disputes.
- Allowing employees to form unions by signing cards authorizing union representation.

The bill, which is supported by the AFL-CIO, has a bipartisan coalition of Senators (46) and Representatives (233) supporting it; including Georgia Congressmen John Barrow, Sanford Bishop, Hank Johnson, John Lewis, Jim Marshall, and David Scott.

The final vote on the motion to proceed was 51 in favor and 48 against, leaving the proponents of the legislation just 9 votes shy of bringing the bill up for consideration.

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 12:19 PM 0 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: ISSUES, JOHNNY ISAKSON, SAXBY CHAMBLISS, U.S. SENATE

How much money do Georgia's political parties have?

According to the **Federal Elections Commission**, the Georgia Democratic and Republican parties reported the following campaign finance numbers as of May 31, 2007. Both state parties have federal and state accounts, so a more clear assessment of their respective financial standings won't be available

until after the June 30th filing deadline.

Georgia Democratic Party (Georgia Federal Elections Committee)

Total contributions to date (2007): \$394,238

Total expenditures to date (2007): \$364,199

Beginning cash on hand: \$18,482

Net cash on hand: \$48,522

Debts owed by: \$13,356

Georgia Republican Party

Total contributions to date (2007): \$470,361

Total expenditures to date (2007): \$460,808

Beginning cash on hand: \$177,072

Net cash on hand: \$179,469

Debts owed by: \$0

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 11:51 AM 0 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: DEMOCRATS, REPUBLICANS

A Victory for Earl Ehrhart

Last week, I opined about open government with this statement:

If an elected official can't get access to public records without having to jump over numerous hurdles, then what does that say about the ability of a regular citizen to get an open records request filled. [Read "What does it say about open government..."]

Today, InsiderAdvantage is reporting that state Rep. Earl Ehrhart (R - Powder Springs) will have his open records request filled...without the \$1,000 charge.

What changed?

Apparently, the Governor's Chief of Staff intervened, twisted some arms, crossed some names and got Ehrhart the information that he wanted. But

what about us regular folks? What about the people out there that don't know the Governor's Chief of Staff and don't have connections in their government (s).

We still need more access to open government without undue roadblocks placed in our way; so while I congratulate Rep. Ehrhart on getting his open records request filled, I still encourage him and other elected officials to make government more open and more transparent.

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 10:33 AM 2 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Chambliss Chummy with Cheney...

...In a time when the Vice President's former chief of staff, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, was convicted of two counts of perjury, one count of obstructing justice in a grand jury investigation, and one of the two counts of making false statements to federal investigators [Source: 3/6/2007 New York Times article "**Libby Guilty of Lying in C.I.A. Leak Case**"]; and in a time when Vice President Cheney says that he isn't a part of the executive branch (which is very debatable depending on whom you ask) [Source: 6/21/2007 ABC News article "**Cheney Power Grab: Says White House Rules Don't Apply to Him**"], only a U.S. Senator from Georgia (namely Saxby Chambliss) would have the Vice-President in town for a fundraiser in support of his 2008 re-election bid.

Cheney's next secret visit to Atlanta will be Monday, July 16. He'll be the star attraction at a fund-raiser for U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss hosted by Charlie Loudermilk. [Source: 6/25/2007 AJC Political Insider post "**The vice president's next secret visit to Atlanta**"]

I'm reminded of the proverb that says "You are judged by the company that you keep." Time and again, Chambliss has enjoyed the company of Cheney; and next year, I believe that the people of Georgia should make a judgment on whether Saxby should continue in the Senate based on the company he's kept during his first six years in that distinguished body.

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 10:16 AM 0 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: SAXBY CHAMBLISS

Monday, June 25, 2007

My top ten list of Georgia's most influential political blogs

Today, the talk of the town is **Blog Net News Georgia's rankings of**

Georgia's political blogosphere. Their rankings have caused a lot of discussion out there (see **Peach Pundit**, **Tondoe's Tavern**, and **Going Through The Motions** for some fine examples), and so I thought I'd throw out which ten blogs I think are the most influential in Georgia politics.

1. The AJC's Political Insider (tie)
1. Peach Pundit (tie)
3. Blog for Democracy
4. Georgia Politics Unfiltered (tie)
4. Georgia Women Vote (tie)
6. Jason Pye.com
7. The Young Democrats of Atlanta blog
8. Safe As Houses (tie)
8. Radical Georgia Moderate (tie)
10. Georgia's Political Vine

I have no "secret formula". I just picked the blogs that I know are read by a cross-section of people across the state.

One more thing, I added **"The Other Athens"** to the blog roll.

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 4:42 PM 3 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: MISC.

James Marlow officially concedes...

In a statement released by his campaign today, James Marlow, Democratic candidate for Congress from the 10th district, said that he would not challenge the results of the June 19th special election and also congratulated Paul Brown and Jim Whitehead on moving on to the run-off. Below is a copy of Marlow's statement:

Dear Friends,

I would again like to thank everyone across the Tenth District, Georgia and the nation who supported our campaign. I would especially like to thank the folks in my hometown of Lincolnton and my campaign headquarters in Athens.

From the beginning, the most enjoyable part of this campaign was reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones. I owe a great debt of gratitude to everyone who contributed to the campaign, hosted me in their home, knocked on a door, made a phone call, waved a sign on a street corner or just spoke with a neighbor about our campaign. I can't thank you enough for believing in me and the message of our campaign.

I do not plan on contesting or challenging the results of the election, and I congratulate Jim Whitehead and Paul Brown for winning the two seats in the

runoff.

Again, I thank everyone who participated in the campaign, and I congratulate all of the candidates on a well-run race.

Sincerely,

James Marlow

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 4:25 PM 0 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, DEMOCRATS

College money in exchange for war?

African-Americans say no thanks.

Two years ago, I gave a speech in New Hampshire where I said, "...America's younger generation isn't willing to trade their lives over bad intelligence and the promises of money and a college education," and today it's being reported that the military is suffering from a recruitment problem amongst blacks.

Why?

Because other job prospects are soaring, and relatives of potential black recruits increasingly are discouraging them from joining the armed services.

Walking past the Army recruiting station in downtown Washington, D.C., this past week, Sean Glover said he has done all he can to talk black relatives out of joining the military.

"I don't think it's a good time. I don't support the government's efforts here and abroad," said Glover, 36. "There's other ways you can pay for college. There's other ways you can get your life together. Joining the Army, the military, comes at a very high price." [Source: 6/25/2007 AJC article "Wars, jobs take toll on black recruits for military"]

I don't think that this recruitment problem among African-Americans is because of a run on patriotism. It's because, as Sean Glover said, putting your life in danger based on the promise of college funds once you get out is too high of a risk. It's too high of a price; and more & more people within the black community understand that.

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 9:57 AM 0 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: NEWS, OPINIONS

Remember the Shafer Amendment?

For those of you who don't, allow me to refresh your collective memories.

The Shafer Amendment was an amendment to the Sandy Springs city hood companion legislation (HB36), offered by state Sen. David Shafer (R - Duluth). The Shafer Amendment essentially states that money collected from an unincorporated area of a county could only be spent in the area that it was taken from.

Here's the actual language of the Shafer Amendment with emphasis added:

O.C.G.A. 36-31-12:

(b) When a municipal corporation is created by local Act within a county which has a special district for the provision of local government services consisting of the unincorporated area of the county and following the creation of said municipal corporation the special district is divided into two or more noncontiguous areas, any special district taxes, fees, and assessments in such a noncontiguous area shall be spent to provide services in that noncontiguous area.

Prior to Sandy Springs, Milton, and Johns Creek becoming cities, taxpayers in those unincorporated areas constantly complained about their tax dollars being spent in communities and neighborhoods other than their own. When Sandy Springs became a city in 2005, that created three noncontiguous unincorporated areas in Fulton County; the areas now known as the cities of Johns Creek and Milton; and unincorporated South Fulton.

Read More...

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 9:10 AM 0 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, FULTON COUNTY

Saturday, June 23, 2007

Georgia Democratic Party to hold peace rally

I found this on **Creative Loafing's** website:

Stand for Peace Rally

The Democratic Party of Georgia rallies to bring troops home from Iraq;
Fridays, 12 p.m.

Here's the **link** to the advertisement.

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 12:44 PM 0 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: EVENTS

I'm not average...

...When it comes to sex.

MSNBC has a story out that says that the "average man sleeps with 7 women" in a lifetime.

It's a question that often prompts a boastful answer or a bashful one: How many sex partners have you had?

Now the federal government says it has authoritative statistics, documenting that men are far more likely to play the field than women.

The median number of lifetime female sexual partners for men was seven; the median number of male partners for women was four. [Source: 6/23/2007 MSNBC article "New survey tells how much sex we're having"]

When it comes to sex, I've only slept with one female, and I had some pretty strong feelings about her at the time. When it comes to sex, I'm all about monogamy. Actually, when it comes to relationships, I'm all about monogamy. I'm all into committing to one person and staying with that person forever. I just don't see the point in jumping into bed with some lady you met at the bar and got drunk with. I guess I'm old-fashioned in that respect.

Anyways, today is one of those days where I'm glad that I'm below average.

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 12:33 PM 0 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: MISC.

Friday, June 22, 2007

What exactly is "beach re-nourishment" money?

This week, the Mayor of Tybee Island made national news when he posted a YouTube video encouraging Rep. Jack Kingston to secure federal funding for "beach re-nourishment money" for Tybee Island.

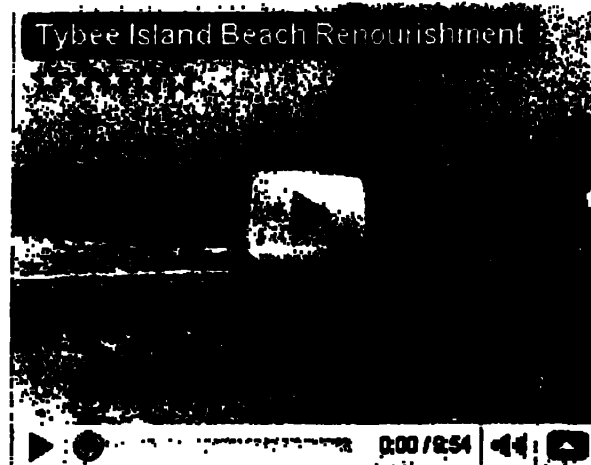
Jason Buelterman, who coordinates an Advanced Placement program for high school students when he isn't serving as part-time mayor of Tybee Island, taped a 10-minute video shot mostly from the beach to provide visual evidence that the town needs more sand.

At times sharing screen time and a small stretch of sand with other, more scantily clad, beachgoers, Buelterman, dressed in dark slacks, a blue button-down shirt and shades, lays out the reasons why Congress should appropriate the money to restore the beach.

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[Source: 6/21/2007 The Hill article "Georgia mayor YouTube's lobbying pitch"]

Here's the YouTube video for all to see:



I'm being mildly facetious here, but is it possible for some of our soldiers in Iraq to ship some sand back over here for Tybee Island.

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 4:11 PM 0 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: ISSUES

HR351: the Joint Study Committee on Fulton County

During the 2007 legislative session, the General Assembly created the Joint Study Committee on Fulton County to *"undertake a study of the conditions, needs, issues, and uses of the Fulton County government structure and operations and the problems found by the Fulton County Blue Ribbon Commission or related thereto and recommend any actions or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate."*

As per House Resolution 351, the Speaker of the House and the Lt. Governor both get to appoint eight members of the committee. Here are those appointees:

Read More...

POSTED BY ANDRE AT 3:48 PM 1 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: FULTON COUNTY

Have you ever seen a gangsta penguin?

Well, you have now.

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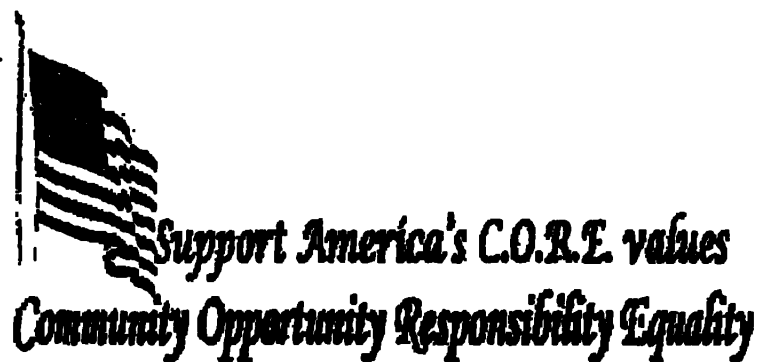


POSTED BY ANDRE AT 3:09 PM 0 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST

LABELS: COMEDY

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EXHIBIT E

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

U.S. House gives Republicans 2 weeks to change course on SCHIP

by Andre on October 3, 2007

Today, the United States House of Representatives postponed the vote on overriding President Bush's veto of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) reauthorization bill [Source: House Roll Call 938]. The House has plans to bring up the veto override in two weeks on October 18th.

This two week interlude will give Congressional Republicans a chance to listen to the American people; a chance to listen to their constituents; a chance to listen to the 43 Governors, Democrat and Republican, who support the reauthorization of S-CHIP.

I've heard many people say that opportunity only knocks once. In this case, opportunity is banging on the Republicans' door a second time to do the right thing for America's children.

Congressional Republicans have been given a rare opportunity to get it right; to vote yes for children's health care. Will they seize the day? Will they seize the opportunity to provide more of America's children with access to health care?

-Or-

Will they continue to follow this poor, misguided President's attempt to cut the legs out from under our nation's children?

I remain hopeful that Georgia's Congressional Republicans will join Georgia Democrats in a bipartisan fashion and do what's right for Georgia. Do the right thing for America, help our kids, and vote to override the President's veto in two weeks.

{ 48 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Establishing a "Mendoza Line" for Georgia's Presidential Primary

by Andre on October 10, 2007

At the end of this month, the executive committees for the state Democratic and Republican parties will meet to determine who will make it onto the ballot for Georgia's February 5th presidential preference primary as prescribed by state law [OCGA 21-2-193]. As a prelude to each Party's respective executive committee meeting, the AJC's Political Insider recently wrote that former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney sent his son to Georgia Republican Party headquarters to personally lobby for his father's inclusion on the Georgia Republican ballot. Let me start by saying that unless a majority of the Republican state executive committee has it in for Gov. Romney, he doesn't have anything to worry about. However, there are candidates, (on both sides), that I hope will be excluded from the February ballot.

Those candidates are (in no particular order):

Dennis Kucinich
Mike Gravel
Duncan Hunter
John Cox
Tom Tancredo
Sam Brownback

I singled these candidates out for exclusion because of Ron Paul. Ron Paul can hardly be considered a top-tier candidate for the Republican presidential nomination. However, Paul managed to raise \$5 million for his campaign. With that five million dollar figure, Ron Paul established the Mendoza line for presidential politics. If you can't raise at least \$5 million, then you should not be included on the presidential primary ballot. At last count, many (if not all) of these candidates have not raised anywhere near that number; and their polling numbers in this state are negligible at the least.

The question has got to be asked, "if you can't raise at least \$5 million by November 1st, and if you can't point to polls showing that you have measured support of at least 5% in the polls, then why are you running and why should we include you on our ballots?"

You know, I would not necessarily object to requiring presidential candidates pay a qualifying fee equal to 3% of the annual salary for the POTUS (i.e., the POTUS makes \$400,000 a year; 3% of that is \$12,000).

{ 16 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Lewis endorses Clinton "without hesitation or any reservation"

by Andre on October 12, 2007

[NOTE]: This was my first submission to the Huffington Post's Off The Bus project.

Speaking to a standing room only crowd, which included Herman Russell of the H.J. Russell Company and Valerie Jackson; the widow of former Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson, Georgia Congressman John Lewis endorsed Hillary Clinton's campaign for President saying the former First Lady has "devoted her entire career to the causes of children and families."

"I believe Hillary Clinton will be a strong leader," Lewis said. "She will fight for what is fair, for what is right, and for what is just."

Sen. Clinton said she was grateful and so blessed to have the support of "one of the people I admire most" and humbly accepted the endorsement. Clinton then went on to launch into a speech in which she derided the Bush administration for blowing a lot of "hot air."

"There's a lot of wind blowing in America," Clinton said. "That wind is hot air...that wind is a lot of huffin' and puffin' about how the world will come to an end if we try to give uninsured children and their middle class and working families health care."

Sen. Clinton repeated a campaign refrain that "too many Americans are invisible" and said her campaign is a continuation of John Lewis' work.

"We're all better when we're working and pulling for another," said Clinton.

Lisa Favors, an Atlanta resident, stated that she was supporting Hillary because she's "the best candidate, has the most experience, and can think on her feet." Joey Davis, a former Roswell City Council candidate, said that while he was disappointed that his 2 year old daughter wouldn't be the first woman President, he intended to canvass in North Fulton for the Hillary campaign in the future.

{ 7 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

The single-issue liberals are at it again

by Andre on October 17, 2007

"Too many of them would rather be 'right' than be in power."

-Former New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman

Last year, I was very vocal in my support for Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman because I thought it was extremely unfair for the liberal/progressive/whatever-it-is-they're-calling-themselves-today wing of the Democratic Party to target him for defeat simply because of a disagreement over one single issue; the war in Iraq.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, the single-issue looney left is at it again; and this time, Georgia Congressman Jim Marshall has drawn their ire and become their newly-anointed whipping boy.

Jim Marshall is a Democrat that has voted with the House Democratic Caucus 81.9% of the time. What that means is that out of the 888 votes that Jim Marshall has cast since being elected to Congress in 2002, he's only voted against the House Democratic Caucus a paltry 18.1% of the time. Unfortunately, we've got these looney liberals out there, raising and spending money, who seem as if they are willing to trade a Democratic Congressman for a Republican one over a lousy 18%!

What kind of sense does that make?

Yes, I was disappointed in Marshall's vote against S-CHIP, but my disappointment ended when folks started calling for his head in the Democratic primary. When it all comes down to it, I'd rather have a Democratic Congressman who votes with the Democratic caucus 81.9% of the time than a Republican Congressman who votes against the Democratic caucus 100% of the time.

Year after year, Jim Marshall is targeted by national Republicans and year after year he beats them back. I'm convinced that Jim Marshall may be the only Democrat that can get elected out of a district that went overwhelmingly for President Bush and Gov. Perdue in 2004 and 2006. The problem is that we've got folks in my party, the Democratic Party, who are willing to kick Jim Marshall to the curb over one issue; over 18.1%

I remember telling someone that getting 90% of something is better than 100% of nothing.

We know what we've got. We've got a Democratic Congressman in a Republican district. We've got a Democratic Congressman contributing to the new Democratic majority in Washington. We've got a Democratic Congressman who voted for the first female Speaker of the House. And we've got a Democratic Congressman that votes with the rest of the Democratic caucus 81.9% of the time. Jim Marshall is our 90% and I'm not willing to trade our 90% Democrat for a 100% Republican.

During the foolish campaign to unseat Sen. Joe Lieberman (which the looney liberals lost I might add), I frequently turned to the words of former New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman...

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"Too many of them would rather be 'right' than be in power."

The "them" Gov. Whitman was talking about were the members of the Republican Party who were imposing strict, ideological litmus tests on Republican candidates and purging the G.O.P of those individuals who did not meet their rigid standards. The same thing is going on in the Democratic Party. You've got these ideologically pure Democrats, many of whom don't even live in the 8th Congressional district, trying to pull a Joe Lieberman on Jim Marshall. And much like Christine Todd Whitman said, these folks would rather claim a small victory by defeating someone who doesn't meet their standards than be in power. They would rather purge the Democratic Party of those so-called "DINO's" and have some sort of moral prize on their collective trophy case than be in the majority.

Honestly, I've been a party to this flawed line of thinking. A few years ago, I called out state Rep. Mike Jacobs and his vote for the Republican-sponsored House rules. In hindsight, I know I was wrong because now there is one less Democrat in the Georgia House of Representatives and one more Republican. Back then, I bought into the line of thinking that "we want some 'real Democrats' in office" & "we've got to get 'Republican-lite' out of there." Now, I could care less about this crap concerning who is and isn't a 'real Democrat.' All I want is some Democrats up in office, because quite frankly, half the stuff that Georgia Democrats opposed wouldn't even have come up for a vote if there was a Democratic majority.

Voter ID...would've died in committee.

Cutting PeachCare...would've died in committee.

The \$1 billion in cuts to education...would've died in committee.

Closing the door on open government in Georgia...would've died in committee.

"Go Fish Georgia"...oh yeah, that would've definitely died in committee.

Georgia Democrats need to keep their eye on the ball here. The unfortunate reality is that we're in the minority. We don't have the votes (excuse my French) to stop a damn thing; so instead of turning our proverbial guns on fellow Georgia Democrats like Jim Marshall over 18.1%, we need to focus our fire on the Republicans.

One final note, I'm steadily starting to warm up to the notion by conservative talk radio host Michael Savage (who I listen to from time to time) that "Liberalism is a Mental Disorder".

{ 19 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

How do you raise \$707,718 & have nothing to show for it?

by Andre on October 24, 2007

Deborah Honeycutt is a Republican candidate for Congress from Georgia's 13th district. In 2006, she was the Republican nominee for the Congressional seat currently held by Democrat David Scott. In the 2006 election, Honeycutt received 30.8% of the vote compared to Congressman Scott's 69.2%. Next year, she has plans to challenge Rep. Scott again.

On several occasions, I've written about my confusion concerning Honeycutt's fundraising; particularly the fact that she seems to raise a whole lot of money, and never seems to do anything with it. For the quarter ending September 30th, Deborah Honeycutt raised \$256,238.50 bringing her YTD fundraising totals to \$632,498.29. That amount dwarfs David Scott's fundraising totals of \$88,217.22 for the quarter and \$452,623.01 for the year. However, when you look at the bottom-line, Scott has \$179,478 in the bank while Honeycutt has \$34,104 in the bank along with \$78,273 worth of debt.

How does that happen? How do you raise all that money and have nothing to show for it?

There are several things about Deborah Honeycutt's campaign that raises my eyebrows. The first being that the address listed on her FEC reports is a Washington, D.C. listing. The second is that a company, BMW Direct, Inc., is listed on Honeycutt's financial disclosures five times receiving funds totaling \$37,796.78 for "direct mail fundraising." Yeah, you read that right...almost forty grand was spent on direct mail fundraising. Even if paying close to \$40,000 for direct mail fundraising is an acceptable arrangement (which I don't believe it is), you take the forty grand out and you've still got over half a million in the bank for a good website, radio ads, a few t.v. ads, direct mail, and a lot of yard signs. I've looked Deborah Honeycutt's reports up and down, and I don't see any expenditures for any of that. What I do see is some very sketchy items that makes me wonder what exactly is going on with the Honeycutt campaign.

On her FEC reports, Honeycutt lists her campaign address as 1155 15th Street, NW, Suite 614, Washington, D.C. 20005. Two companies, Legacy List Marketing, Inc. and Patriot Partners, Inc., share that address with the Honeycutt campaign. Why is this important? The reason is that the Honeycutt campaign has paid Legacy List Marketing and Patriot Partners a combined \$100,623.36 this reporting period for direct mail fundraising. Now, I think it's very important to note that BMW Direct, Inc. has a similar address to the Honeycutt camp; 1155 15th Street, NW, Suite 410, Washington, D.C. 20005; same address, different suite numbers. I'm bringing this to your attention because BMW Direct's address is also the address for Century Data Systems Corp., MacKenzie & Co., and Electronic Reporting Systems. The Honeycutt campaign paid Century Data Systems \$7,317.35 for direct mail fundraising; MacKenzie & Company \$5,697.81 for compliance consulting; and Electronic Reporting Systems \$3,990 for electronic disclosure reporting.

Let me repeat, yet again, that all these companies appear to be housed in the same building (and some even in the same suite) as the Honeycutt for Congress campaign. This seems very fishy to me. Either

Deborah Honeycutt is getting swindled by all of these D.C. consultants or she's a crook using these businesses as a front to funnel campaign funds into her pockets. I don't think Deborah Honeycutt is a crook. I think she's getting bamboozled by those folks in D.C.; I mean when the treasurer of your campaign is also on the payroll of one of the companies you hired and paid close to \$40,000 for direct mail fundraising, any fool could see that there's something rotten in Denmark here.

From a partisan standpoint, I'm supporting David Scott; and from a strictly partisan point of view, I believe that if Deborah Honeycutt is foolish enough to let all these D.C. consultants take her money, then that's cool with me. \$700,000 at work in Washington means there isn't \$700,000 at work in the 13th district making David Scott and the Democrats' life miserable.

{ 14 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Georgia's Presidential Primary Ballot Is Now Set

by Andre on October 30, 2007

As required by Georgia's presidential preference primary law (O.C.G.A. 21-2-193), the State Executive Committees for the Democratic and Republican parties have met and determined who will appear on the state's February 5, 2008 presidential primary ballot.

According to officials at the Georgia Democratic Party, their Executive Committee met on October 27th and voted to place 8 candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination on the ballot. Those 8 individuals include:

Delaware Sen. Joe Biden;
New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton;
Connecticut Sen. Chris Dodd;
Former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards;
Former Alaska Sen. Mike Gravel;
Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich;
Illinois Sen. Barack Obama; and
New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson.

On the Republican side, a press release featured on the state GOP's website stated that *On Monday, October 29th, Chairman Sue Everhart convened the Georgia Republican Party Executive Committee to select the presidential candidates that will appear on the Republican Ballot for the February 5th, 2007 Presidential Preference Primary.*

Nine candidates will appear on the Georgia Republican presidential primary ballot:

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani;
Former Ark. Gov. Mike Huckabee;
California Congressman Duncan Hunter;
Frequent presidential candidate Alan Keyes;
Arizona Sen. John McCain;
Texas Congressman Ron Paul;
Former Mass. Gov. Mitt Romney;
Colorado Congressman Tom Tancredo; and
Former Tenn. Sen. Fred Thompson.

Georgia state law requires that the state Republican and Democratic parties forward the names of all candidates to appear on the presidential preference primary ballot to the Secretary of State no later than November 1st of the year immediately preceding the year in which a presidential preference primary is to be held.

[NOTE]: This was cross-posted at Georgia Politics Unfiltered.

{ 9 comments }

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Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Do you have any birthday wishes for ~~Vernon~~ Jones? Snuggles?

by Andre on October 31, 2007

Today is his birthday, you know.

Also born on this day are...

Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek;
Mr. "White Chocolate", Vanilla Ice;
John "who was awesome in Uncle Buck" Candy;
former Today Show host Jane Pauley;
Adam "Beastie Boys" Horowitz;
Larry "U2" Mullen Jr.;
Michael "Little House On The Prairie" Landon;
Dan "Can we get a fact checker" Rather;
Mr. "Lord of the Rings", Peter Jackson; and
Juliette Gordon Lowe, founder of the Girl Scouts (she's from Georgia too).

Sorry Andre, I just couldn't help myself. — Erick

{ 1 comment }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

40% of Georgians says property tax is unfair...

by Andre on November 5, 2007

...That according to a poll that the AJC's Political Insider got a hold of:

Our colleague James Salzer learned a new poll commissioned by Richardson of 600 Georgians in late October showed 58 percent of respondents favor his plan to eliminate property taxes and replace the lost revenue with an expanded sales tax.

Pollsters also asked people which tax they considered most

{ 21 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Getting back to Georgia Politics...Saxby, Bush, & the Farm Bill

by Andre on November 6, 2007

This week, the U.S. Senate is considering House Resolution 2419; the Farm bill, a bill that will *"extend and revise agricultural and related programs respecting: (1) commodities; (2) sugar; (3) dairy; (4) conservation; (5) exports and trade assistance; (6) food stamps and nutrition; (7) agricultural credit; (8) rural development; (9) rural electrification; (10) agricultural research; (11) forestry; (12) energy; (13) specialty crops; and (14) livestock."*

Georgia Sen. Saxby Chambliss, the ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, has called on his Senate colleagues to support the Farm bill saying that *"Our entire Committee worked in a bipartisan fashion and to a large extent was able to accommodate the interests and priorities of almost every member of the Agriculture Committee. It is my sincere hope that the Senate will agree with our committee and support this farm bill that will strengthen the nation"*

{ 5 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

We live by the rules, we die by the rules...

by Andre on November 6, 2007

...Let me preface this post by saying that one of the reasons why I love the legislative process is that a large part of it involves strategy and knowing the rules of the game. That's why I always carry a copy of the Georgia House Rules, the Georgia Senate rules, Robert's Rules of Order, and the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Georgia with me at all times.

Anyways, today made for some interesting times in the United States House of Representatives and the Democratic leadership. As you may know, Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich made headlines with his promise to force a House vote on the impeachment of Vice President Cheney today. Well, he made good on his promise and introduced a privileged resolution on the floor of the House.

Here's where it got interesting...

...When Rep. Kucinich called for the consideration of his impeachment resolution, House Democratic Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Maryland) immediately made a motion to table the measure effectively killing it. Hoyer's motion was expected to pass overwhelmingly because Republicans being Republicans didn't want to discuss the impeachment of a member of their own party, and Democrats...well, they didn't want their more liberal edges showing. Everything seemed to be going Steny Hoyer's way; the Republicans were voting the way they were supposed to and only a handful of Democrats (about 86 to be exact) were voting against the motion to table.

Then, as the vote started winding down, the Republicans started switching their votes; a slow trickle at first, but then a steady stream. Eventually you had a case where 165 Republicans and 86 Democrats, a majority of the House, were voting against killing the Kucinich impeachment resolution. The final vote on the motion to table was 162 for and 251 against [Source: House Roll Call #1037] meaning that Cheney's impeachment was still a live issue.

What happened next is nothing short of an amazing testament of what occurs on the House floor when a vote doesn't go the leadership's way, and they have to hastily figure out how to re-assert their power. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, who was visibly unnerved as being "out-strategized" by House Minority Leader John Boehner, quickly made a motion to refer Kucinich's resolution to the House Judiciary Committee. In order to prevent any debate on the motion to commit as well as the larger issue of impeaching Dick Cheney (which the House Democratic leadership did not want), Hoyer also moved the previous question - a motion to cut off debate and proceed immediately to a vote.

By this time, enough arm twisting had gone on to prevent another unexpected vote similar to the one that resulted in the failure of the motion to table. House Democrats fell in line and voted for ordering the previous question and then for referring the Kucinich impeachment resolution to committee [House Roll Call #1038 and #1039].

The end result is that Kucinich's proposal for Cheney's impeachment is stuck in committee where it will probably die, but the Republicans made the Democrats work for killing that measure.

Moral of the story?

Well, the moral is that Democrats need to learn the rules real fast or else risk more potentially embarrassing moments at the hands of the Republican minority. The Republicans knew exactly what they were doing by voting in favor of the tabling motion and then switching their votes over to the "Nay" column in an attempt to force the Democrats into dealing with the issue of impeaching the Vice President.

I may not agree with many of the Republicans' policies, but I have to admit, when it comes to knowing the rules of the game, these guys know their stuff.

[A LITTLE EPILOGUE]: In case you're wondering how Georgia's Congressional representatives voted in this matter, here it is:

Motion to Table

John Barrow - voted yes
Sanford Bishop - voted yes
Paul Broun - voted no
Nathan Deal - voted no
Phil Gingrey - voted no
Hank Johnson - voted no
Jack Kingston - voted no
John Lewis - voted no
John Linder - voted no
Jim Marshall - voted yes
Tom Price - voted no
David Scott - voted yes
Lynn Westmoreland - did not vote

Ordering the Previous Question (cutting off debate of the motion to commit)

John Barrow - voted yes
Sanford Bishop - voted yes
Paul Broun - voted no
Nathan Deal - voted no
Phil Gingrey - voted no
Hank Johnson - voted yes
Jack Kingston - voted no
John Lewis - voted yes
John Linder - voted no
Jim Marshall - voted yes
Tom Price - voted no
David Scott - voted yes
Lynn Westmoreland - did not vote

Motion to Commit

John Barrow - voted yes
Sanford Bishop - voted yes
Paul Broun - voted no
Nathan Deal - voted no

Phil Gingrey - voted no
Hank Johnson - voted yes
Jack Kingston - voted no
John Lewis - voted yes
John Linder - voted no
Jim Marshall - voted yes
Tom Price - voted no
David Scott - voted yes
Lynn Westmoreland - did not vote

{ 5 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Prisoners have a good set-up...3 meals a day & DirecTV

by Andre on November 14, 2007

Did I mention that inmates also have access to health care?

The Clayton County Correctional Institution asked the County Commission on Tuesday to order DIRECTV for the Lovejoy prison.

Warden Frank Taylor Smith said inmates have been grumbling since "Monday Night Football" moved from ABC to ESPN.

"The reason is 'Monday Night Football' is now on cable," he said. "Although it might seem funny, when you have 90 percent of inmates watching something, it is a management tool for the institution." [Source: 11/13/2007 AJC article "Clayton prison requests satellite TV for inmates"]

So let's do a quick re-cap...

...prisoners get 3 meals a day, access to health care whenever they get sick, and now they want satellite t.v. so they won't miss Monday Night Football. What's next? Flat screen televisions? Wings, pizza, and beer for the Super Bowl party?

The warden of this prison does know that the inmates at his facility are prisoners...right?

According to the article, "the Clayton County Commission will vote on the DIRECTV proposal next week". Can I just say that the fact that this proposal is actually being considered by the Clayton County Commission has me in stitches. I mean the idea of a bunch of prisoners sitting in front of a flat-screen, watching the game, and snacking on some wings is so absurd that it shouldn't even be considered.

Seriously though, if this proposal is passed and the Clayton County Correctional Institution (aka, the Clayton County Jail...why are they trying to dress it up? Just call a spade a spade) becomes a subscriber to DirecTV, will the inmates be able to order Wrestlemania off of pay-per-view?

{ 18 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

You can disagree without being disagreeable...

by Andre on November 27, 2007

...And yesterday's actions by state Sen. Vincent Fort and former Atlanta City Councilman Derrick Boazman were both disagreeable and disgraceful.

We all know that saving Grady is a very important issue, but can anyone here really say that cuttin' the fool in front of the t.v. cameras does anything to keep the doors of the financially-strapped hospital open?

Derrick Boazman was quoted as saying, "We didn

{ 60 comments }

29044251850

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Bill Shipp says Georgia Dems are "perpetually polite losers"...

by Andre on November 28, 2007

...In a column published in this morning's Athens Banner-Herald.

The column entitled "Taking Georgia Democrats to the woodshed via e-mail" frequently quotes an e-mail sent by Dr. Ruth Green to the "powers that be" at the Georgia Democratic Party. Dr. Green poses a litany of questions to the state's Democrats including, *Who constitutes Georgia's slate of Democratic leaders?; What are they doing except saying 'DONATE'?; Why is there seemingly nobody with credibility opposing Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-GA?; and Why is there seemingly no statewide Democratic organization even though Democrats have a good chance to elect the new president?*

What was Bill Shipp's response to all these questions?

A somewhat back-handed compliment about a recent e-mail he received from the Democratic Party of Georgia touting their new website (www.georgiademocrat.org)...

Perhaps Green is too harsh on Democrats in the midst of this ho-ho-ho season. Democrats are really not so bad, are they? Just a couple of weeks ago, I received a glowing note from the party informing me that donkey supporters have given a breathtaking \$7,000 to construct a party Web site. The party wanted to know if I could donate a bit more.

Bill Shipp, the Dean of Georgia Politics, then ended his column with a very snarky answer to the Democrats' latest fundraising pitch...

I decided to wait. I want to see first what Mayor Mike Bloomberg and his gun-hating, immigrant-loving maverick supporters may offer as a possible third party. This two-party system is wearing a bit thin, especially when one party seems to have become the perpetually polite loser and excuse maker.

Who wants to dispute Bill Shipp's claim?

{ 11 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

A win-lose situation

by Andre on November 29, 2007

Several months ago, I solicited the advice and counsel of some of the smartest bloggers in Georgia when I asked "Should I file an ethics complaint against my county commissioner so that answers can be provided to my questions regarding the apparent use of public funds to influence the outcome of a pending referendum?". Today, the State Ethics Commission held a preliminary hearing on the complaint that I filed against Fulton County Commission Vice-Chair William "Bill" Edwards, and while the Commission dismissed the complaint, it was not due to base-less allegations.

In fact, two members of the State Ethics Commission stated that they believed a violation did indeed occur, but they weren't sure who the violator was - Commissioner Edwards or Fulton County as a whole. To sum up today's proceedings, it was revealed that at the direction of Edwards, the County Manager, Tax Commissioner, and Finance Director collaborated on producing the actual content of the "You Have Three Options" flyer; and also, it was revealed that the flyer was printed in-house by the Fulton County print shop. Once again, it was agreed that the flyer crossed that line into "advocacy" (which violates the Ethics in Government Act) but the question was on who was in violation; Commissioner Edwards, who ordered the county to make the flyers; or the County itself, who actually expended public funds towards the production of the flyers.

That's where we are, and I'm not entirely sure what to do next. One option is to file a complaint against the Fulton County Manager, Finance Director, Tax Commissioner, and the County Commission as a whole. Another option is to ask the Ethics Commission Executive Secretary to look into whether the Commission can, on its own authority, find probable cause that a violation occurred and was committed by Fulton County. And the third option is just to leave it alone.

I'm probably going to spend the next few days thinking this over, and since I respect the opinion of everyone here, I'd love to hear (or read in this case) your thoughts on the matter. In the end, it is now on the record that Fulton County, under the direction of Commissioner William "Bill" Edwards (don't think I'm going to let him off the hook), used the tax dollars of every single Fulton County taxpayer to engage in issue advocacy; and that was, and still is, wrong.

{ 34 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Democracy rules the day in Venezuela

by Andre on December 3, 2007

I know the only Venezuelan connection to Georgia politics is the fact that Macon's out-going mayor, C. Jack Ellis, wanted to travel to that country so he could meet Hugo Chavez; but am I the only one who's walking on cloud nine knowing that the voters of Venezuela rejected the Chavez attempt to become "President for life".

Not only that, Venezuelans rejected socialism too!

Now, the countdown is on 'til Hugo Chavez's last day in office. My goodness, to see a country reject socialism and a dictatorship excites me (even more so than a hug from GOPeach).

Here's the quote of the day from our Undersecretary of State, Nick Burns:

"We felt that this referendum would make Chavez president for life, and that's not ever a welcome development. In a country that wants to be a democracy, the people spoke, and the people spoke for democracy and against unlimited power."

{ 34 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Georgia vs. California

by Andre on December 6, 2007

No, I'm not talking about football. I'm talking about each state's respective Democratic Party and how they'll be competing with one another for the attention of the Democratic candidates for President.

The Democratic Party of Georgia has set their annual Jefferson-Jackson Dinner for January 30, 2008 and according to their website, *"has invited all of the Democratic candidates for President to come to Georgia and join us..."*

The California Democratic Party just announced that they are teaming up with the L.A. Times, CNN, and Politico.com to host a Democratic presidential debate on January 31, 2008. According to the press release announcing this event, Wolf Blitzer will be moderating the debate with questions coming from reporters and members of the audience.

Maybe someone who has engaged in candidate debate prep can shine some knowledge on this for me, but personally, I would not be comfortable with participating in a debate so soon after hopping on a plane and flying across the country from an event the day before. When it comes to debates, especially nationally televised ones, I'm of the belief that candidates need at least a day to adequately prepare themselves.

I think it's a huge stretch for a candidate to be in Georgia speaking one night and across the country in California debating the next. So now, the question comes down to which state will get shafted?

While I hope it's not Georgia, I think all signs are pointing that way. And I think that because of two key factors; 1.) Earned Media, and 2.) Population.

Candidates and campaigns love to rely on earned media; free press coverage that they didn't have to pay for. In the eyes of a presidential campaign, a 90-minute debate broadcast nation-wide just days before the election is going to seem more lucrative than a fundraising dinner featuring local party activists.

California has 441 Democratic convention delegates and 56 electoral votes. Georgia has 104 convention delegates and 15 electoral votes. When it comes down to the actual numbers, I believe you can win California and lose Georgia, but you can't win Georgia and lose California. In other words, based on simple math, I believe the presidential candidates will go for the bigger prize; the Golden State of California.

As I said earlier, I remain hopeful that all of the Democratic candidates for President will pull a rabbit out of their collective hats and come to Georgia on January 30th next year, but realistically speaking, I think Georgia may end up getting shafted.

{ 3 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Signs you've been under the Gold Dome too long...

by Andre on December 9, 2007

...I've been working on this list, intermittently, for about two weeks now and I've finally gotten to the point where I'm comfortable with posting my list of signs you've been under the Gold Dome too long. I'm pretty sure others will want to chime in, so feel free to do so (and that includes all you legislators that frequent this site).

If the two dates you look forward to in January are Super Bowl Sunday and the Wild Hog Supper, then that's a sign you've been under the Gold Dome too long.

If your idea of a good time is sitting in front of t.v. and eating pizza...*(wait for it)*...on the third floor of the capitol with a bunch of lobbyists on Cross-over Day...at 11:30 at night, that's a sign you've been under the Gold Dome too long.

If you long for the days when state Rep. Doug Dean would ramble about who knows what on the floor of the Georgia House, that's a sign you've been under the Gold Dome too long *(FYI, I miss Doug Dean's floor speeches. They were very entertaining.)*.

If you can give the names of five people who have added their signatures to the wall up in the Gold Dome *(I'm talking about actually up in the Gold Dome itself)*, then you've probably been under the Gold Dome too long *(FYI, a front-pager here at Peach Pundit is one and it's not me)*.

If you've got more cans of boiled peanuts on your shelf than you do books, then that's a sign you've been under the Gold Dome too long *(Quick question...why boiled peanuts? Why not honey roasted peanuts? Or cashews?)*.

Any good ones that I've missed?

{ 7 comments }

Peach Pundit

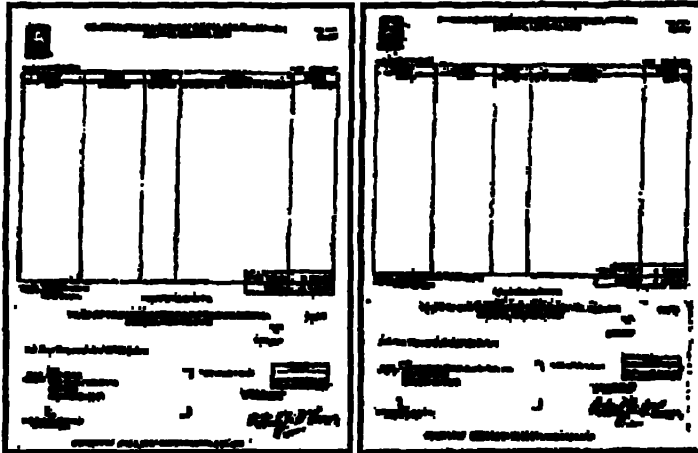
Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

This is so wrong on so many levels...

by Andre on December 10, 2007

... You know, it's one thing to lose an election when you're out-spent. It's a whole 'nother thing entirely when you're out-spent with your own money. I've long suspected that Fulton County taxpayers' dollars were spent for political purposes regarding whether South Fulton should be a city, but today, I received the smoking gun. Today, I received an e-mail with two attachments showing copies of checks cut by Fulton County Government to pay for an advertising proposal along with a round of radio ads advocating the defeat of the City of South Fulton. For those of you wanting some background information dealing with what I'm talking about, read "\$85,500 of mis-used Fulton County funds?" or better yet, just look at the proposal for the "You Have A Third Option: Broadcast Media Campaign" (PDF File).

The following two checks were issued by Fulton County to A.) pay for the cost of generating the proposal (\$5,000), and B.) pay for the radio spots (\$4,000):



I am... words cannot describe my emotions right now. This is just...yeah.

{ 12 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Congressman John Linder has drawn an opponent...

by Andre on December 19, 2007

...In the Republican primary next year.

Jason Thompson, who according to his website is a "native Georgian and a liberty loving American", says that he's running for Congress to "restore some sense of what it means to be a "Conservative" to our nation's government."

In a pledge that is posted prominently on www.votejasonthompson.us, Mr. Thompson writes:

I pledge to the citizens of this State, and to the American people, that as their elected representative I will work to: restore liberty, not restrict it; shrink government, not expand it; reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish programs, not create them; promote the freedom and independence of citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

{ 35 comments

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Georgia remembers Speaker Murphy

by Andre on December 21, 2007

Elected officials from Georgia's past and present gathered under the Gold Dome today to pay tribute to the man who led the Georgia House of Representatives for twenty-eight years; longer than any other speaker in American history.

Flanked by an honor guard of Georgia State Patrol troopers, Speaker Murphy's flag-draped casket was brought into the chamber that he presided over for so many years and received by two of his successors, Glenn Richardson and Terry Coleman.

"He was a giant of Georgia; a giant of Georgia politics," current House Speaker Glenn Richardson said. "He cannot be classified as anything but a giant of Georgia."

"Tom Murphy loved this House," said former House Speaker Terry Coleman. "He led this House with the humility and wisdom of Harry Truman."

Former Gov. Zell Miller who, as Lt. Governor, had many struggles with Speaker Murphy, described the ceremony as "beautiful."

"It captured the powerful personality [of Speaker Murphy] very well," Miller said.

{ 21 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Merry Christmas to all...

by Andre on December 23, 2007

...And to all a two day moratorium on discussing politics.

I know everyone has better things to do these last two days before Christmas, so why don't we all take a two day time-out from politics and spend some quality time with our families. At this time of the year, family comes first.

I hope you all have a very merry Christmas.

{ 1 [trackback](#) }

29044251859

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Vernon Jones makes the list of "most influential Georgians"

by Andre on January 4, 2008

And he's in it to win it...the Senate race that is.

Georgia Trend magazine, "the magazine of Georgia business & politics since 1985", has named DeKalb County CEO Vernon Jones to its "100 Most Influential Georgians" listing.

Also, that little rumor about Vernon running against Hank Johnson is as phony as a three dollar bill, y'all (for two points, what band had an album titled "Three Dollar Bill Y'all"?).

{ 21 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Dale Cardwell Declares His Message Heard

by Andre on January 8, 2008

After a week of braving below freezing temperatures at the top of a 320-foot high tower, Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Dale Cardwell will put both feet back on the ground today at 10:00a.m.

The Cardwell campaign issued the following statement this morning:

Dale says he accomplished his goal, explaining that "everyday Georgians have all but lost the ability to control their government, and must elect an Independent Senator who will shun special interest cash and work only for the people." While suspended on a 2 and ½ feet wide by 6 feet long metal platform, Dale has been discussing solutions to health care, immigration and the energy crisis with hundreds of citizens who have written Dale e-mails or have tuned in to his live 24/7 web cam. His solutions have also been featured in interviews with Fox News Channel, CNN, most of Georgia's television, newspaper and radio news stations. There has even been media interest in Dale's message from across the country and around the world.

{ 19 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Hillary stages a huge comeback; wins New Hampshire

by Andre on January 8, 2008

Two major news organizations, NBC News and the Associated Press are projecting that Hillary Rodham Clinton, the junior Senator from New York, has won the New Hampshire Democratic primary.

Clinton's apparent victory in the "First in the Nation" primary demonstrates a remarkable comeback after many major polls showed her trailing Illinois Sen. Barack Obama by as many as thirteen points in the days leading up to the Granite State's contest.

Now the question on everyone's mind is how did she do it?

... What do y'all think happened?

Why did the pollsters hit so far off the mark in regards to New Hampshire?

And finally, what impact does this have on Georgia?

By the way, I'm excited that Mac is Back!

{ 17 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

A Task For Fiscal Conservatives

by Andre on January 10, 2008

In November of last year, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that Fulton County Commission Chair John Eaves proposed a 2008 budget that included \$690 million in expenses versus \$649 million in revenue. Eaves proposed to cover that \$41 million deficit by raising taxes, but his proposal was rejected by the other county commissioners including Lynne Riley of North Fulton who led the fight against that property tax increase [Source: 11/25/2007 AJC article "Financial bind puts brakes on tax cut"].

In this morning's paper, the AJC reports that the Fulton County Commission "failed to balance [their] budget" because "*as commissioners pored over budgets for the various court officials and human service agencies, they added back as much as they took out*" [Source: 1/10/2008 AJC article "Fulton commissioners fail to balance budget"].

Can I ask y'all something?

How hard is it to be fiscally conservative? How hard is it to realize that you don't spend more money than you have? How hard is that to understand?

I'm just sitting here scratching my head wondering how Fulton County went from an estimated \$141 million surplus to a \$41 million deficit in one year (FYI, that's \$182 million in excess spending). That's about as far away from the definition of "fiscally conservative" as you can get.

Fixing this unbalanced Fulton County budget is a task for fiscal conservatives, and I'm afraid to say that there are very few of those people in Fulton County Government today.

{ 11 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Previewing the 2008 legislative session

by Andre on January 13, 2008

Tonight, the Georgia Railroad Freight Depot was filled with legislators, lobbyists, and candidates as a prelude to the convening of tomorrow's 2008 session of the Georgia General Assembly. How appropriate that every year, the legislature kicks things off with tables upon tables of everything pork.

This year marked my first time attending the Wild Hog Supper after years of watching the news coverage of the event on my t.v.

Well, aside from the fact that Democratic U.S. Senate candidates Vernon Jones and Maggie Martinez were both in attendance, here's what I heard and was told to look for during the first week of the session:

- A.) The House will spend most of the first week taking up veto overrides, and most of those veto overrides will deal with the Governor's line-item vetoes of appropriations projects. I heard this from a Democratic Senator, however, I didn't ask him if it was "on the record" or "off the record", so I'll just leave y'all to guessing which state Senator it was.
- B.) Donzella James is running for Congress (she told me herself) and state Sen. Kasim Reed is "seriously considering" a run for Mayor of Atlanta. I know that may not seem like news to most, but what I found interesting is that when I asked Sen. Reed if he was running for re-election this year, he said that he was "focused on governing" and "focused on getting through the session."
- C.) The session will be shorter than in 2007, but a few lobbyists don't think that the session will be fast (so much for the legislators coming in, passing the budget, and going home to run for re-election).
- D.) Michelle Obama was in attendance tonight, and I spotted several Mike Huckabee buttons in the crowd.

That pretty much sums it up...for now.

{ 12 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

A Peach Pundit Proclamation on Presidential Personalities

by Andre on January 23, 2008

As we all know, our society is positively permeated full of people who are overly sensitive and possibly too politically correct. This year, that political correctness has extended into the presidential campaign resulting in the term "bigot" being hurled at anyone who has the audacity to refer to a particular presidential candidate by his full and legal name. That is why, from this point forward, I believe that in order to prevent Peach Pundistas from being tagged as "bigots" by those overly sensitive individuals, we should all use the full and legal names of the remaining candidates for President of the United States of America.

For those of you who are not familiar with the candidates' full and legal names, here they are in alphabetical order:

Hillary Diane Rodham Clinton;
Johnny Reid Edwards;
Rudolph William Louis Giuliani III;
Michael Dale Huckabee;
John Sidney McCain III;
Barack Hussein Obama; and
Willard Mitt Romney

That is all.

{ 63 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Georgia Republicans: Still wrong on S-CHIP

by Andre on January 26, 2008

By now, we should all be aware of what the acronym "S-CHIP" stands for; the State Children's Health Insurance Program. This popular program, which was started under President Bill Clinton's administration, provided health insurance to 6.6 million American children in the year 2006 and since its inception in 1997, the number of uninsured low-income children in the U.S. has decreased by one-third [Source: Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families].

In Georgia, S-CHIP is the parent program of the popular PeachCare for Kids which (as of October 2007) has an enrollment of 274,440 [Source: Georgia Department of Community Health]. That is 274,440 Georgia children who are able to get the access to health care that they need in order to grow up healthy in this state.

PeachCare and S-CHIP are both good programs, and they are not (as Republicans would say) "entitlement programs." No one is "entitled" to enroll in PeachCare and S-CHIP. There are standards, and eligibility is determined based on families' income.

Unfortunately, beginning in 2007, the Georgia Republican members of Congress have voted against re-authorizing this important program a whopping six times.

When the first S-CHIP bill came to the floor of the U.S. House & Senate, Georgia Republicans voted against it [Source: House Roll Call 986; Senate Vote 307]. When President Bush vetoed H.R. 976 and the House voted to override the President's veto, once again, Georgia Republicans voted against it [Source: House Roll Call 982]. When the second S-CHIP bill came to the floor of the U.S. House & Senate, Georgia Republicans again voted against it [Source: House Roll Call 1009; Senate Vote 403]. Again, Bush vetoed it and again Georgia House Republicans voted against the veto override [Source: 2008 House Roll Call 22].

Even here in Georgia, an effort was made by the Speaker of the House to reduce the eligibility for PeachCare. Lucky for the state's children, the Georgia Senate had the good sense to put a stop to Glenn Richardson's foolishness.

As it concerns PeachCare and S-CHIP, a pattern of behavior has emerged among the Republicans. Publicly, Republicans say they're for PeachCare and S-CHIP, but when it's time for decisions to be made and votes to be cast, they're against PeachCare and S-CHIP. Or even worse, they try to cut the program. Case in point, Saxby Chambliss told the Chattanooga Times Free-Press that he "supported it [S-CHIP] 10 years ago when we put it in place" and that he stills supports it, but when the time came to support re-authorization of the program, Sen. Chambliss voted against it...twice [Source: 1/5/2007 Chattanooga Times-Free Press article "Chambliss makes stop in Dalton"].

I don't know if there is some deep-seated animosity towards this program. But what I do know is that the Republicans have consistently come down on the wrong side of this issue, and what I also know is that there is nothing right about failing to re-authorize this important program.

On this issue, the Republicans are as wrong as wrong can be.

{ 11 comments }

29044251867

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Georgia Democratic Solutions: Lower taxes, better schools

by Andre on January 29, 2008

As I wrote earlier today, while the Republicans bicker among themselves, the Democrats are offering real solutions that will move Georgia forward again.

Georgia Democrats are proposing two bills to put a stop to school cuts and take the burden of \$1.5 billion in property tax shifts off local government. The Democratic plans provide fiscally sound property tax relief by fully funding the Quality Basic Education (QBE) Act.

"This is immediate, effective tax relief without shifting the burden to local governments," said Rep. Jamieson (D-Toccoa). "It creates no new taxes." Under the first bill sponsored by Rep. Jamieson, counties who lower local property taxes can tap into \$300 million this year in state education funding.

Accompanying that bill is legislation sponsored by Representative Kathy Ashe (D-Atlanta) that mandates the state to fully fund the Quality Basic Education Act for the first time in over 20 years. This will ensure that K-12 public education is adequately funded and the state no longer shifts the burden to local property owners.

The funding for local governments that reduce property taxes would come from the state's reserve fund for the next two years, \$300 million this year and \$300 million next year. Funding received would be dedicated to the Quality Basic Education formula that funds public education.

Rep. Kathy Ashe stated, "We cannot demand increased student achievement while the state is starving public education. Under the Republicans, public education has been cut by \$1.5 billion and over 100 systems have been forced to raise property taxes as a result. It's time we do the right thing, and made the state government pay its fair share."

"These are great bills that roll back property taxes and help fund public education in Georgia," said House Democratic Leader DuBose Porter (D-Dublin). "Families have suffered from shifting the burden to homeowners and Georgia schools have been hurt by the cuts in their basic level of funding from the state which has forced local systems to raise property taxes."

House Caucus Chairman Calvin Smyre (D-Columbus) noted, "There is a direct cause and effect here — cuts to education funding lead to higher property taxes. I'm calling on the Republican leadership to do their utmost to give both of these worthy proposals a fair hearing. It is time that education and protecting local property taxes becomes a priority once again in Georgia."

In total, public education cuts by the GOP are as follows:

Proposed fiscal year 2009
\$141,510,679

Fiscal year 2008
\$142,968,687

Fiscal year 2007
\$169,745,895

Fiscal year 2006
\$332,835,092

Fiscal year 2005
\$332,838,099

Fiscal year 2004
\$283,478,659

Amended fiscal year 2003
\$134,594,245

Total
\$1,537,971,356

{ 12 comments }

29044251869

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Georgia Democrats offer real solutions for the Peach State

by Andre on January 29, 2008

This morning as I was reading the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, I came across an article that made me think, "well that just takes the cake."

The article?

Well it's the one where state Rep. Ron Forster took the floor of the Georgia House and urged his colleagues to sign on to his impeachment legislation against Lt. Governor Casey Cagle. This morning, as I read that article, I asked myself, "Is this why the people of Georgia put the Republicans in the majority? To impeach the Lt. Governor?" I then expanded that question to include some of the other misguided Republican proposals on the table this year.

Did the people of Georgia put the Republicans in power to pass the not-so-"GREAT" plan?

Did the people of Georgia put the Republicans in power to make it easier for you to carry a gun in a parking lot?

Did the people of Georgia put the Republicans in power to cut over \$1 billion in education?

The answer to all those questions is a flat no. I believe the people of Georgia put the Republicans in power because they were told that Republicans could run the state better than Democrats, but when you look at the accomplishments of the Republican majority (and let me tell you, they are few), you have to ask yourself how have their priorities made our state better.

How has attempting to cut PeachCare made our state better?

How has failing to raise the minimum wage made our state better?

The answer to those two questions is simply that it hasn't.

While the Republicans sit around and bicker amongst themselves, our state is not moving forward and in some cases, Georgia is moving backwards.

Georgia Democrats have real solutions for Georgia; solutions that will move Georgia forward again. Solutions such as expanding pre-K so that more of Georgia's children can get off on the right foot with a strong educational foundation. Solutions such as fully funding education and providing more access to higher education. Making health care for affordable and accessible; making Georgia a more "green" state with investments in renewable energy sources; finding a remedy to metro-Atlanta's growing traffic problem; those are the solutions that Georgia Democrats have to offer and those are the solutions that will move Georgia forward again.

Plain and simple, Georgia Democrats have real solutions for the Peach State, and come November we will make our case to the people of Georgia that it is time for the Republicans to be put right back where they were for 130 years...in the minority.

{ 7 comments }

29044251871

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

State Sen. Nan Orrock on Lou Dobbs Tonight

by Andre on February 4, 2008

State Sen. Nan Orrock (D - Atlanta) will appear on CNN's Lou Dobbs Tonight to discuss tomorrow's Super Tuesday presidential primaries and caucuses.

The program begins at 7p.m.

{ 5 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Cynthia McKinney gets spanked by Ralph Nader

by Andre on February 6, 2008

Former Georgia Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney lost the Green Party of California's presidential primary to frequent candidate Ralph Nader last night garnering only 26% of the vote.

There's no word if McKinney will blame Republican cross-over voters for her crushing defeat.

{ 3 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Tennessee lawmaker suggests sending troops to Georgia border

by Andre on February 8, 2008

"I think we need to have our militia down there," quipped Tennessee House Majority Leader Gary Odom, D-Nashville. [Source: 2/8/2008 Chattanooga Times Free Press article "War of words over water"]

Tennessee state Rep. Gary Odom is speaking to the resolution introduced by Georgia state Senator David Shafer (R-Duluth) that establishes the Georgia-North Carolina and Georgia-Tennessee Boundary Line Commission in order to resolve a nearly 200 year old dispute between Georgia and Tennessee concerning the northern border of Georgia along the 35th parallel.

Senate Resolution 822 and its House companion, H.R.1206, claims "the northern border of the State of Georgia and the southern border of the states of North Carolina and Tennessee lies at the 35th parallel, north of the southernmost bank of the Tennessee River and that a flawed survey conducted in 1818 that was never accepted by the State of Georgia erroneously marks the 35th parallel south of its actual location."

According to news reports, if Georgia's border moved north by a mile, the state would then gain access to a portion of the Tennessee River and possibly bring some relief to Atlanta's water crisis.

Tennessee state legislator Andy Berke (D-Chattanooga) told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that, "Most people in the (Tennessee) Legislature understand this is a publicity stunt, but my constituents don't think that. They don't think this is an appropriate action for the Georgia Legislature to take even if it is in jest," the Tennessee state Senator said. [Source: 2/8/2008 AJC article "BORDER DISPUTE: Water war between the states on the line"]

However, Sen. Shafer seemed to suggest that his resolution wasn't a publicity stunt. In remarks to the Georgia Senate, Shafer said, "The northern border of Georgia is and always has been the 35th parallel. It is never too late to right a wrong."

S.R.822 was co-sponsored by all 56 Georgia Senators.

{ 26 comments

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Political Pundits have long waited for this day...

by Andre on February 12, 2008

[Lt. Governor Cagle]: Is there any blogger that wants to rise on a point of personal privilege?

The distinguished blogger from College Park, Georgia is recognized for a point of personal privilege.

[Andre Walker]: Thank you, Mr. President.

Fellow Georgia bloggers, today is a great day for our state and our country for today is the day that the coveted Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue hits news stands across Georgia and America.

The 2008 issue is something that all of Georgia can be proud of, both Democrats and Republicans. A lot of work has gone into this annual publication that pictures some of the finest women the world has to offer. I take personal pride in knowing that every year, this great swimsuit issue from Sports Illustrated is a source of agreement for people of all political persuasions. It truly is a benefit to our society.

My only regret is that Sports Illustrated didn't feature the lovely GOPeach in their magazine.

And with that, Mr. President, I yield the well.

{ 12 comments

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

McCain leads Clinton & Obama in Georgia

by Andre on February 14, 2008

According to numbers released by the Georgia Secretary of State's office, 1,060,851 Georgians voted in the Democratic primary. Numbers like those would normally be something that Democrats in the Peach State could crow about. Unfortunately, Insider Advantage Georgia is out with a poll that's being described as a "Red State reality check."

If the election were held today:

McCain: 47 percent

Clinton: 40 percent

No Opinion/Undecided: 13 percent

McCain: 48 percent

Obama: 40 percent

No Opinion/Undecided: 12 percent

In both contests independents voters said they would vote for McCain by a 52 percent-to-30 percent margin. Among Democrats, 75 percent said they would vote for Clinton. Sixty-nine percent of Democrats said they would vote for Obama. In all cases the small remainder of identified Republicans and Democrats overwhelmingly said they were undecided. [Source: 2/14/2008 Augusta Chronicle article "A Red State reality check: Georgia big for McCain if vote held today"]

I know a lot of people will say Georgia is a deep crimson red state, and no Democrat has a chance here, but if this trend continues across the south, you'll have a situation where the Democratic nominee starts the General Election campaign already behind one-third in the electoral college (FYI, southern states make up a third of the electoral votes).

{ 53 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

The Georgia-Tennessee Border War Propaganda Begins

by Andre on February 14, 2008

I've received a communication from my superior officer Lt. Colonel Jason Shepherd announcing that he will be on The Regular Guys radio show this Tuesday, February 19th at 8:20a.m. to discuss the "35 or Fight" Facebook group.

Jeremiah Dollar, the founder of the Tennessee defense group, will appear on the show as well to spread his anti-Georgia propaganda to the masses.

You know, Tennessee is known as the "Volunteer State" and I believe Tennessee should volunteer to give Georgia its land back. We can end this destructive conflict and bring order to the galaxy...I mean south; bring order to the south.

{ 18 comments }

29044251877

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

House Panel Hears 4 Hours Of Testimony On Human Life Amendment

by Andre on February 18, 2008

This afternoon, Subcommittee One of the House Judiciary Committee heard more than 4 hours of testimony from proponents and opponents of House Resolution 536; the Human Life Amendment.

State Rep. Martin Scott (R - Rossville), the primary sponsor of the legislation, presented the proposed constitutional amendment saying, "The evidence is clear that life begins at conception. We need to enshrine it in the Constitution."

"Now is the time. Georgia is the place. Let us vote and let them live," Rep. Scott concluded.

H.R.536 proposes to amend Georgia's Constitution so as to define "personhood" as beginning at fertilization. During the hearing, both Democratic and Republican committee members expressed reservations to the proposed constitutional amendment.

State Rep. Ed Lindsey (R - Atlanta), the chair of the subcommittee considering H.R.536, expressed his concerns about the legislation saying, "I don't see how we make exceptions for incest or rape."

Democrat Mary Margaret Oliver asked, "If life begins at conception, how can a IUD (Intrauterine Device) be lawful?"

The hearing also included testimony from Georgia State University and University of Georgia law professors who raised concerns about the constitutionality of the legislation. According to one of the professors, if H.R.536 were passed, it might open up a Pandora's box of problems as it relates to personhood (could a fetus have the legal right to sue its mother for smoking during the pregnancy?) or eventually be struck down by the courts as violating Georgia's single-subject rule.

Other groups in opposition to the legislation were traditional pro-life groups such as the Georgia Catholic Association and the Archdiocese of Atlanta and Savannah.

Representatives from Georgia Right to Life, a pro-life group supporting the bill, spoke in favor of the Human Life Amendment saying, "We are at all bashful at admitting that there are egregious assaults on human dignity. We believe we are laying the foundation for human dignity."

"We believe all rights must be secondary to the right to life," the Georgia Right to Life spokesman concluded.

Catherine Davis, a frequent candidate for Congress, agreed with Georgia Right to Life saying, "Her right to choose was before she got pregnant."

"I disagree," state Rep. Able Mable Thomas said.

The House Judiciary Subcommittee will hold another hearing on Wednesday, February 20th at 2:00p.m. in room 406 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

{ 143 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Reginald Lamar Wade tells his side of the story

by Andre on February 19, 2008

About seventeen days ago, Erick and I received the same tip on the questionable past of a candidate for Clayton County Commission Chair.

The candidate?

Reginald Lamar Wade.

The issue?

A guilty plea to two counts of misdemeanor sexual battery in Gwinnett County six years ago involving two female students who, Gwinnett County prosecutors said, Mr. Wade talked inappropriately to and touched "a girl's bottom and another student's breast." [Source: 11/11/2002 AJC article "Ex-teacher in sexual battery case avoids jail but loses certificate"]

About six minutes ago, I received an e-mail from Mr. Wade seeking to tell his side of the story and I thought I'd share a few excerpts of that unedited message with all of you.

When I went to the Gwinnett System I had a problem with a student who was going to fail my class do to her not coming to class, lack of work, and discipline. When informed she would fail she retaliated with a story that was investigated by the school and no merit was ever found. However her father a friend of the District Attorney had charges filed on an incident where I touched her leg as an example of discipline in front of my entire class and had it construed as being her buttocks and it being sexual in nature.

She got another student to say I had at some point touched her as well.

There were [...] 6 other molestation cases in front of the same judge in Gwinnett County with teachers. I was advice to take the Alford Plea which is a plea of no admittance [...] Now I want go into the fact that I felt I wouldn't and didn't get fair justice or that everyone involved in the legal process was of the same race and how prejudice the legal system is in Gwinnett.

However what I will do is say that I as a teacher made an error in judgment I tried to get a student to leave from behind my teachers' station where other student information was located and where she was not supposed to be. After asking several times and arguing back and forth with the student I reached down as she was seated in my chair and touched her leg and said aloud "if you don't move I am going to pinch you". That was all that ever happened and took place.

Does anyone have any thoughts on this?

{ 5 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

In Case You Missed It...David Shafer on the Giant Show

by Andre on February 21, 2008

This morning, Duluth state Senator David Shafer appeared on The Giant Show to talk about his resolution to establish a boundary line commission that would correct an 1818 survey which wrongly marked Georgia's northern border at about a mile south of the 35th latitudinal parallel.

Senate Resolution 822 unanimously passed the Georgia Senate yesterday on a vote of 52 - 0.

The Giant Show, which is aired mornings on Project 9-6-1 (WKLS-FM), marks Sen. Shafer's latest appearance on local Atlanta radio to talk about his efforts to fix Georgia's borders. Shafer has also appeared on The Regular Guys radio show on February 12th to talk about his resolution.

Audio of Shafer's interview with The Regular Guys can be heard by clicking here.

{ 2 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

In Memoriam: Herb Butler (1927 - 2008)

by Andre on February 22, 2008

Today, Georgia Democrats are mourning the passing of James Herbert "Herb" Butler, a long-time leader in both Democratic Party politics and the Georgia labor community.

Herb Butler, a Cobb County resident, was an active member of the United Auto Workers serving as the Atlanta-area director for 21 years from 1969 to 1990. In addition, Butler served on the Advisory Council for the Georgia Department of Labor for over 35 years and was also a member of the State Board of Natural Resources.

An active Democrat, Herb Butler served on the state Democratic Committee from Cobb County and also represented Georgia at the 2000 and 2004 Democratic National Conventions. I believe (and someone please feel free to correct me if I'm wrong) that Herb was also a member of the Democratic National Committee.

In 2000, the Georgia House of Representatives honored Herb Butler with a resolution (H.R. 1132) recognizing and commending him for "his dedicated service to the UAW and to the citizens of Georgia." In 2002, the Georgia state AFL-CIO awarded him the Herbert H. Mabry Lifetime Achievement Award.

In a 1996 interview, Herb Butler described his more than half-century of work within the labor community as follows:

"I have got a great deal of satisfaction from [being in a union]," Butler said. "And my family has been able to live...decently...because of the union activities...and the benefits that we've been able to have by being a union member."

Herb Butler was born November 4, 1927 in Silver Grove, Kentucky.

{ 1 comment }

29044251882

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Official Georgia Democratic Delegate Count

by Andre on February 22, 2008

Earlier this week, I posted my unofficial pledged delegate count for the Democratic National Convention. This evening, the Georgia Democratic Party released its official pledged delegate count, and I nailed the counts with exception of the 2nd Congressional District where Hillary picked up an additional delegate. According to the release by the state Democratic Party, they are conducting a hand examination of the absentee and provisional ballots in the 2 district, so the numbers there may change. Until then, here is the official delegate count:

	Hillary Clinton	Barack Obama
1st Congressional District	1	2
2nd Congressional District	2	3
3rd Congressional District	1	3
4th Congressional District	1	5
5th Congressional District	2	5
6th Congressional District	1	2
7th Congressional District	1	3
8th Congressional District	1	3
9th Congressional District	2	1
10th Congressional District	2	2
11th Congressional District	1	2
12th Congressional District	1	4
13th Congressional District	1	5
Pledged Party Leaders & Elected Officials (PLEOs)	4	7
At-Large	6	13
Totals	27	60

{ 5 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Georgia Democrats say No Way to 175 New Taxes by Republicans

by Andre on February 28, 2008

Republican Tax Plan Undermines Education, Breaks Cities and Counties, and Increases Taxes on Working Families and the Elderly

House and Senate Democrats today announced their strong opposition to HR 1246 and HB 979 which is the Republican Tax Plan that puts 175 new taxes on Georgia's citizens.

"Democrats are not against tax reform. We have our own property tax cut plan but we cannot and will not support tax reform that undermines education, breaks cities and counties, and increases taxes on working families and the elderly in Georgia," said House Democratic Leader DuBose Porter (D-Dublin). "The Republican Tax Plan puts 175 new taxes on Georgians – from grits to putting you in the grave. The Republican tax plan is not just a new tax on food but a laundry list of 175 new taxes that would include haircuts, auto parts, ATM fees, home improvements – all would be taxed under the Republican Tax Plan."

According to House Democratic Caucus Chairman Calvin Smyre (D-Columbus), "Right now, Georgia is entering tough economic times. Families are starting to feel the pain of the Republican recession. Republicans in Georgia have been poor stewards of your money, and the only answer they offer is to create 175 new taxes. And what are those taxes? If you go to the barber shop or the beauty shop, you will be taxed. If you go to a lawyer to have a will done, you will be taxed. If you take your car to the shop, you will be taxed. If you have a death in your family, the funeral services, the digging of their grave will be taxed. When you go to get your taxes done, you guessed it, you will be taxed."

"On behalf of my Democratic colleagues in the Senate, we're pleased to stand here in solidarity with our friends in the House Democratic Caucus," said Senate Democratic Leader Robert Brown (D-Macon). "We Democrats outlawed taxing groceries nearly a decade ago, and we are not about to allow the Republicans to tax groceries now. The kitchen table should never be taxed."

The Georgia Democratic Legislative Caucus released the following list of the 175 new taxes under the Republican Tax Plan.

{ 23 comments }

29044251884

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

House Votes Down Speaker's Tax Plan

by Andre on March 5, 2008

...And Glenn Richardson is giving a pretty angry and rhetoric-filled speech.

Click [here](#) to watch the debate live.

The key quote thus far is "For the last year, I have been assailed, maligned, and cursed. I have been the poster boy for anyone who wants to oppose anything."

Thus sayeth the Speaker of the Georgia House.

[UPDATE 3:51]: The House has voted and the result is 110 - 62. The Speaker's tax plan was ten votes shy of the 120 votes needed for passage.

[UPDATE 3:44]: State Rep. Jerry Keen, the House Majority Leader, is currently speaking. Keen was preceded by the House Republican Whip Barry Fleming. Calling it the largest tax cut in Georgia history, Fleming called on Democrats to support the proposed constitutional amendment saying, "If you vote no on this bill, you are voting no on \$74 million in funding for trauma care. If this fails today, it will be because we didn't get help from the other side of the aisle."

[UPDATE 3:33]: DeKalb state Rep. Kevin Levitas becomes the first Democrat to defect and announce his support of the bill. Too bad the state Democratic Party has instituted its incumbent protection policy.

[UPDATE 3:29]: House Republican Caucus Chair Jay Roberts said the tax plan will "help rural Georgia." Roberts concluded his remarks saying, "Give the people of Georgia the opportunity to vote on how they want to be taxed." You know you're in trouble when legislators start talking about the "people of Georgia."

[UPDATE 3:17]: Speaker Pro Tempore Burkhalter called the car tag tax "a systematically bad idea." He also said that "twenty other states don't have ad valorem taxes on their vehicles" and that the plan would eliminate the tax on 7 million vehicles. The House Ways & Means Committee Chair Larry O'Neal is currently speaking.

[UPDATE 3:03]: Richardson has concluded his remarks; the Speaker Pro Tempore, Mark Burkhalter, is now speaking and is calling Richardson's travels around the state a "crusade." I'm curious about Richardson's intent to return the money lost by the local jurisdictions back to them. It was a question asked by State Rep. Gene Maddox; "Mr. Speaker, how are we going to guarantee giving the money back?" Richardson's response was that the bill would constitutionally mandate it. I'm not sure how that would work.

[UPDATE 2:49]: Speaker Richardson announces trauma care funding is attached to his tax plan. Another key quote is "Sometimes we can't see the opportunities that we have. How many times have

you had the opportunity to do this much good? You're either going to say that you're going to listen to the people in the hall or you're going to listen to the people of Georgia."

{ 24 comments }

29044251887

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Her Actions Don't Reflect Her Rhetoric

by Andre on March 6, 2008

I've been a member of the Georgia state Democratic Committee for about three years now and I've always been a firm believer in Article II, Section 1 of the Charter of the Democratic Party of Georgia; that the "State Committee shall be the highest authority of the State Party" and "shall have general responsibility for the affairs of the State Party."

Over the past week, I've become more and more annoyed with the new incumbent protection policy instituted by the Democratic Party of Georgia for several reasons; the main one being that this new policy was put in place without seeking the counsel of the "highest authority" of the Democratic Party of Georgia.

Even after every major Democratic blogger (many of whom are, like me, members of the state Democratic Committee) in this state expressed their displeasure at the new policy that prohibits access to the voter file for Democratic challengers of Democratic incumbents, the Democratic Party of Georgia has remained noticeably silent on the issue.

It's a shame really; especially considering the words offered by Georgia Democratic Party Chair Jane Kidd in this morning's Atlanta Journal-Constitution"

"In Georgia, we're making grass-roots voter contact our top priority in 2008, and I'm convinced that Sen. Obama shares our dedication to neighbor-to-neighbor contact," Kidd said.

[Source: 3/6/2008 AJC article "[Obama gains 7th Ga. superdelegate](#)"]

I'm really curious about something here; how can one say that "grass-roots voter contact is our top priority in 2008" when the current policy of the Democratic Party of Georgia hampers the ability for Democratic challengers of Democratic incumbents to make the aforementioned "grass-roots voter contact?"

The policy that's on the books right now is a policy that was not approved by the "highest authority of the State Party" and a policy that does not reflect "our dedication to neighbor-to-neighbor contact."

{ 14 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

They Said It! Ousted Clayton School Board Member Norreese Haynes

by Andre on March 7, 2008

"Clayton County is a colorful county full of honest and proud people. You won't see any of us at the swanky Piedmont Driving Club or the Atlanta Steeplechase. We are, however, a hopeful people, trying to build a better future for our children. We need less finger-pointing from the likes of Mr. Mark Elgart and SACS. Our people understand the "rough and tumble" side of politics where opposing views have to compete in the marketplace of ideas. Our school board does not need to be a "garden club," serving tea and crumpets."

You can attribute that quote to former Clayton County School Board Member Norreese Haynes in response to the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools (SACS) recommendation that the Clayton School System lose its accreditation effective September 1, 2008.

Just so the white folks here at Peach Pundit won't get accused of racism, let me go ahead and translate what Norreese Haynes was saying:

We don't need no white folks coming down here to Clayton County telling us black folks how to run our schools.

Man, Norreese Haynes just doesn't get it. And you know, the worst part is that this fool is seeking to have an injunction put in place to prevent his removal from the Clayton County School Board. As if being heckled and booed on his way out the door wasn't enough, Haynes must want to test the patience of the public by trying to remain in office.

Just like SpaceyG said, "Clayton County School Board - giving Metro Atlanta the gift of ongoing entertainment!"

{ 3 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Draft Johnny [Isakson].com

by Andre on March 10, 2008

Those smart guys at the AJC's Political Insider shed light on the newest site to grace the world wide web; www.DraftJohnny.com.

Sen. Isakson says he's never seen it. However with two years left before the 2010 gubernatorial election, some folks are already chomping at the bit to see Johnny come marching home again; hurrah, hurrah. In fact, that old civil war song would serve as an excellent campaign song for Georgia's junior Senator.

*When Johnny comes marching home again
Hurrah! Hurrah!
We'll give him a hearty welcome then
Hurrah! Hurrah!
The men will cheer and the boys will shout
The ladies they will all turn out
And we'll all feel gay when Johnny comes marching home.*

Although we might have to do something with the word "gay."

{ 2 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

"If we sell more alcohol people are going to die."

by Andre on March 13, 2008

That's what Tom Rush, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Social Circle, said yesterday as the House Regulated Industries Committee passed a bill that would allow local communities to decide whether to permit the sale of alcohol on Sundays [Source: 3/13/2008 Columbus Ledger-Enquirer article "Sunday sales at grocery stores clears House panel"].

Another preacher, speaking for the Georgia Christian Coalition, asked the question "Will our communities be healthier and safer if we make more alcohol available?" My answer to that question...no more than they are right now. To repeat something that has been said over and over again, it's legal to go to a sports bar and buy alcohol on Sundays. It's legal to go to Turner Field, the Georgia Dome, or Philips Arena and buy alcohol on Sundays. But it's illegal for me to walk into Kroger and buy a six pack of Mike's Hard Lemonade on a Sunday? That seems, to me, to be the most inconsistent policy I've ever seen.

And what exactly does the Christian Coalition have with people voting on this issue? My position is that if the Christian Coalition is so adamantly against the sale of alcohol on Sunday, then they need to raise the money and put a campaign out on the field that encourages people to vote no. But what they shouldn't do is stand in the way of each local community having local control over this local issue.

{ 43 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

And Lite Gov. Weighs In

by Erick on March 13, 2008

I think Casey and Sonny are tag-teaming on the Glenn GREAT Plan.

From his office comes this statement:

"The House has passed a plan that needlessly delays tax relief for over a year, and doesn't provide the full amount of relief for two years. Georgia workers are at risk of losing their jobs right now due to the economic downturn. Why are we waiting two years to cut taxes instead of having the courage to do it right now?"

"I am interested in working with the House on a broad economic stimulus plan that will create jobs today. I believe we can develop a plan that cuts taxes for every Georgian, regardless of whether they drive an old Ford truck or a shiny new Porsche. The Senate also strongly believes in capping property tax assessments, and we have already passed two constitutional amendments doing exactly that. These are the issues that truly matter to Georgia families, and it is time to get serious about the business of creating jobs for Georgia by providing broad tax relief to all of our working citizens."

{ 11 comments

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

What's Going On With The Weather?

by Andre on March 15, 2008

I'm sitting here watching the news concerning the apparent tornado that hit downtown Atlanta.

If anyone has any news or if you want to talk about the extremely rare occurrence of a tornado hitting downtown Atlanta, consider this an open thread.

Let's say a prayer for the victims and ask God to take care of the first responders who're going to have to clean up this mess.

{ 9 comments }

29044251892

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Jim Martin Is Running For U.S. Senate

by Andre on March 19, 2008

Insider Advantage broke the story.

Former state Rep. Jim Martin, his party's candidate for lieutenant governor in 2006, is now in the U.S. Senate race. Martin formally announced Wednesday, just hours before the man he hopes to challenge - Saxby Chambliss - was planning a big to-do of his own in the Capitol with Johnny Isakson, Gov. Sonny Perdue and other officials.

[Source: 3/19/2008 Insider Advantage article "Jim Martin Is In The Race To Challenge Saxby"]

With Jim Martin in the race, I think the Democratic field is now broken down into three tiers:

Tier 1: Jim Martin, Vernon Jones

Tier 2: Rand Knight, Dale Cardwell, Josh Lanier

Tier 3: Maggie Martinez

Also, I don't believe there is a front-runner and that there will be a run-off.

Jim Martin's website is www.martinforsenate.com

{ 29 comments }

29044251895

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Who knew that Jill Chambers was having an affair with Vernon Jones...

by Andre on March 20, 2008

...And that's why she's against the city of Dunwoody.

Yesterday, I was listening to the debate on S.B.82 and I almost died laughing when state Rep. Chambers took the House floor and said, "Jill Chambers, you've slept with Vernon Jones; that's why you don't support the City of Dunwoody."

Now I know it isn't funny to make light of a situation where someone's reputation and character is being sullied, but sometimes you do have to laugh at some of the stuff that people come up with over the internet. Apparently some bloggers (not me or any of the esteemed folks here at Peach Pundit) have savaged Chambers over her opposition to what would become Georgia's newest city by spreading slanderous filth like that.

There's a way to disagree without being disagreeable and the fact that Jill Chambers had to speak publicly about internet fairy tales shows that some of the proponents of the city of Dunwoody are both disagreeing and being disagreeable. I think that both sides of the Dunwoody cityhood issue should do as Joe Friday said and stick to "Just the facts, ma'am." No personal attacks; no salacious rumors about who's sleeping with who; just the facts.

Now, on a slightly related note, who wants to bet that the Georgia Gang's Dick Williams will have something to say about this on his show Sunday?

{ 23 comments }

Peach Pundit

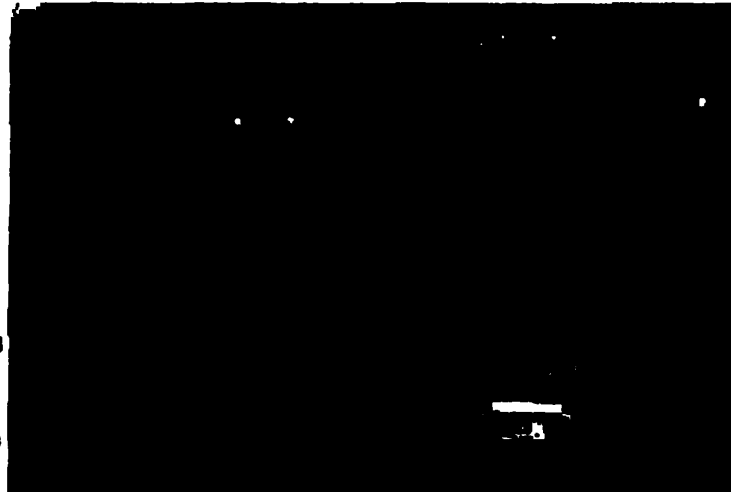
Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Dick Pettys to Retire at Year's End; Honored By Georgia Senate [UPDATED]

by Andre on March 20, 2008

Today, the state Senate took a few moments to honor and recognize a giant of Georgia political journalism; Dick Pettys. Pettys will be retiring at the end of the year after more than three decades of covering all aspects of Georgia politics.

In a rare moment, the Senate relaxed its rules to allow the longtime reporter the courtesy of walking down the chamber's center aisle as he prepared to address the body not as a news-breaker but as a news-maker. Pettys' remarks came after Senate Resolution 1199 was unanimously adopted honoring him for his long service of accurately providing the political news of the day to Georgians; first as a writer for the Associated Press and then as the editor of Insider Advantage Georgia.

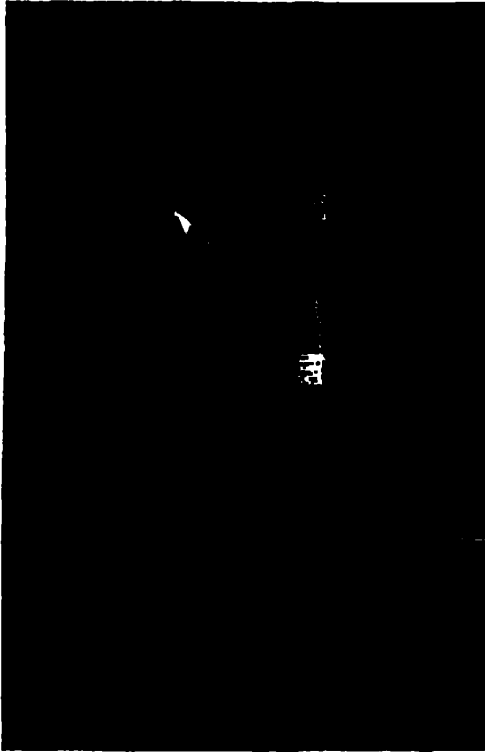


Lt. Governor Casey Cagle had the following to say about Dick Pettys' pending retirement:

"The response in the chamber today showed just how much the Senate respects and appreciates Dick Pettys. He has not only provided exceptional coverage of our capitol for many years, but he has also become a good and trusted friend to many of us. Our chamber simply will not be the same without him and I hope he knows how very much he will be missed."

On a personal note, I'd like to share a story about Dick Pettys. On the first day of the 2007 session last year, as I walked onto the floor of the Georgia Senate for the first time, a tall gentleman wearing a dark blazer and a pair of khakis came up to me and said, "Andre, Dick Pettys. Nice to meet you. If you need any help this session, feel free to ask me and good luck." Now of course, I'm paraphrasing here, but that was the gist of Dick Pettys' words to me on January 8, 2007. Dick Pettys is one of those political news reporters that I admire and respect. And I honestly believe the Senate Press Gallery will seem just a little bit empty without him back there taking notes, interviewing lawmakers, and generally keeping people in the know of what's going on under the Gold Dome.

{ 15 comments



29044251896

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Libertarians: The Party of Bob Barr, Jason Pye, and...Mike Gravel?

by Andre on March 26, 2008

After reading the news that former Democratic Sen. Mike Gravel (D/L - Alaska) has announced that he will compete for the Libertarian Party's presidential nomination in Denver this summer, I thought some good-natured ribbing would be in order for the Georgia Libertarians in our midst.

Fed up with being excluded from the debates and otherwise marginalized, former Senator Mike Gravel of Alaska announced today that he will seek the Libertarian Party nomination for president.

Skyler McKinley, a Gravel spokesman, said that Mr. Gravel would try to pursue the Libertarian nomination at the party's convention, which will be held in Denver on May 22-26.

Source: 3/26/2008 New York Times article "Gravel to Run for Libertarian Nod"

As the resident Democrat around these here parts, I want to thank the Libertarian Party for taking this certifiable nut-case off of the Democrats' hands.

Former Georgia Congressman Bob Barr, who switched from the Republican Party over to the Libertarians in 2006, welcomed Mike Gravel with open arms saying, "It is a distinct honor to have another former member of Congress within the Libertarian Party." [Source: 3/26/2008 Baltimore Sun/The Swamp blog "Gravel now seeking Libertarian nod"]

Seriously though, I don't mean to knock the Libertarian Party because I believe that we need more than just two political parties engaged in the debate over the direction of our nation. However, with Mike Gravel now in the Libertarian Party's ranks, it makes it a bit more difficult for the Libertarians to be considered as a viable third option for disenchanted Republicans and Democrats. You need more Bob Barrs and Neal Boortzs and less Mike Gravels.

{ 13 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

State Democratic Party Staff Lacks Diversity & Experience

by Andre on June 2, 2008

Despite the high probability of an African-American or a female becoming the Democratic Party's nominee for President, a review of the Georgia Democratic Party's staff shows that there are no African-Americans or females in any meaningful leadership positions.

Of the fourteen paid staff positions listed on the state Democratic Party's website, four are held by women and none of the female staffers hold any of the "director" positions (i.e., executive director, communications director, field director, finance director, canvass director, or call center director).

Georgia Politics Unfiltered has learned that two of the Democrats' four female employees, Anne Bartoletti and Stacey Chavis will be leaving their positions for unspecified reasons. Bartoletti is white and Chavis is black.

With Anne Bartoletti's departure, the state Democratic Party no longer has any person on paid staff with institutional knowledge of how the Democratic Party of Georgia, including the state Democratic committee and each respective county Democratic Party, works.

The white-washing of the Democratic Party of Georgia's paid staff comes just two years after the Party had numerous females and minorities on the payroll including a black female deputy director, a black male field director, a black female FEC compliance director, a black male research director, and a white female director of county affairs.

The Democrats' staff shake-up, in an important election year, has many wondering if the Republicans will be facing any real opposition from the left side of the aisle come November. There are also some questioning why the Democratic Party of Georgia, which has less than \$300,000 in the bank according to campaign finance reports, has more employees on payroll than the Georgia Republican Party.

In comparison to the Democrats' 14 employees and \$290,982.89 in the bank, the Georgia GOP has 8 paid staffers and a net cash on hand of more than \$1 million.

{ 25 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Wednesday Morning Power Talk Radio...

by Andre on June 3, 2008

...Just a quick programming note for those interested.

I'll be a guest on the WAOK (1380 on your AM dial) radio show Power Talk with Lorraine Jacques-White tomorrow morning between 9:30 and 10:00a.m.

{ 2 comments

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

State Elections Board Gives "Frivolous Litigation Notice" to Georgia Dems

by Andre on June 7, 2008

Late last month, the Democratic Party of Georgia filed what Secretary of State Karen Handel said was the fourth lawsuit against the state attacking the law that requires Georgia voters to show government-issued identification before they cast their ballots on election day.

In an e-mail to her supporters, the first Republican to hold Georgia's top elections office called the state Democratic Party's lawsuit "baseless and repetitive"; and in an interview with the Atlanta Journal-Constitution May 29th, Secretary of State Handel said the litigation was "extraordinarily outrageous and frivolous." [Source: 5/29/2008 AJC article "Ga. Democrats sue over voter ID law"]

If the recent actions of the State Elections Board are any sign, one could assume they agree with her.

At its May 29th meeting, the State Elections Board adopted a motion to serve the Democratic Party of Georgia with a "frivolous litigation notice" pursuant to O.C.G.A. 9-15-14. The motion was introduced by Randy Evans, the General Counsel for the Georgia Republican Party.

According to a summary of the meeting, Secretary of State Handel, who chairs the board, amended Evans' motion to include language that enables the state to collect attorney's fees and all other costs that might be incurred." If a judge agrees that the Democrats' lawsuit is indeed frivolous, then the Georgia Democratic Party might find itself picking up part or all of the tab for its lawsuit against the state.

{ 12 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Donzella James Outraged At Congressman David Scott

by Andre on June 10, 2008

Former Georgia state Senator Donzella James (D - Atlanta) says she's outraged but not surprised at the allegations that Congressman David Scott referred to his Republican opponent, Deborah Honeycutt, as a bitch.

In a news release sent out today, Democrat Donzella James cited a statement from the Republican National Committee's Outreach Communications Press Secretary as her reason for believing the accusation against U.S. Rep. Scott is true.

"This is disrespectful and very unfortunate to hear this about a U.S. Congressman," said the RNC's Outreach Communications Press Secretary Darrell Jordan. "It's also extremely disappointing to hear an African-American man use this term in reference to another African-American woman. When I heard this report, I decided to call the witness who heard Rep. Scott utter the phrase (for my own confirmation). On Monday, Maynard Eaton, a writer for the Atlanta Voice newspaper, confirmed to me that he did, in fact, hear Rep. Scott refer to Dr. Honeycutt as a bitch."

There are some, however, who are questioning the truthfulness of Eaton's claim. These skeptics point to Republican Deborah Honeycutt's FEC reports which show Maynard Eaton receiving five "media consulting" payments totaling \$3,000 over the last few months.

Still Donzella James maintained her criticisms against the Georgia Congressman who defeated her twice in the Democratic primary.

"[David Scott] has been disrespectful to me and other women in my presence," James said. "Even in mixed company, he often makes vulgar references that are less than gentlemanly."

"Making statements degrading women and not addressing the issues that are important to all of us clearly indicates that he has no business representing the 13th district! I am the respectable candidate who will bring service, integrity, and accountability back to our district," she continued.

Congressman Scott's office continued to deny the allegations.

"That is absolutely not true," said Scott's Chief of Staff Michael Andel. "Congressman Scott would not say such a thing."

{ 11 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

When is a Democrat Not a Democrat?

by Andre on June 12, 2008

The answer is when that "Democrat" gets a check from a Republican and proceeds to set up a web page attacking another Democrat.

The self-proclaimed "Democrat" (and I say that because no one associated with the Democratic Party of Georgia, the state Democratic committee, the county Democratic committees, or any Democratic affiliates in this state are claiming this guy is a Democrat) in question is a man by the name of David Knox.

Knox, according to FEC campaign disclosure reports, received \$250 from Republican Deborah Honeycutt for "website maintenance" in February of 2007. On his company's website, www.dkintermedia.com, Knox touts his work on Honeycutt's 2006 campaign web page (*I remember Honeycutt's website from 2 years ago and honestly...that ain't nothing to be bragging about*).

However, if you let David Knox tell it, he's a "registered Democrat" although there is no party registration in Georgia. He works part time for the government (*I'm sure the feds would love to take a look at that relationship*). And finally, David Knox owns and operates two websites, www.democratsforgoodgovernment.com and www.voteoutdavidscott.com, which constantly and consistently savages 13th district Congressman David Scott.

Here is David Knox in his own unedited or proofread words:

Over the past couple of weeks I as the Leader of Democrats For Good Government have received several phone calls and emails from people posing to be news reporters and supporters of the Democrats all asking questions about this website (DemocratsForGoodGovernment.com) and the flyers we are passing out.

We are sick and tired of bullies and cowards who hide behind news reporter for the AJC – Ben Smith and Clayton New Daily- Joel Hall who profess that a story is being published but never show up in any paper.

Everyone is making a mad attempt to link this website and this organization to a republican candidate when we clearly state this is "Democrats For Good Government" are they blind or just stupid?

Well let's see... we have a person who lists a Republican congressional candidate's website in his company's portfolio. We have a person who had some sort of relationship with that same Republican for at least a year maybe longer. And we have a person who, as recently as February 2007, received funds from that Republican congressional candidate, Deborah Honeycutt, for "website maintenance."

It's blatantly obvious that David Knox is not a Democrat just from the facts that are on the table. I know no Democrat who would take money from a Republican then turn around and set up an allegedly pro-Democratic web page that attacks Democrats.

It makes no sense and it's not logical.

{ 17 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Georgia Congressional Republicans Vote Against Extending Jobless Benefits

by Andre on June 13, 2008

Amid reports that the unemployment rate in the United States rose to 5.5% last month, the United States House of Representatives voted to extend jobless benefits for 13 weeks nationwide and for 26 weeks in high unemployment states - those with 6% unemployment or higher.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, this would provide relief for 3.8 million Americans.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi lauded the passage of the Emergency Extended Unemployment Compensation Act saying, "The time is right. The number of long-term unemployed Americans is higher now than when Congress last extended unemployment benefits in 2002.

"Extending unemployment benefits has the potential to help the entire American economy," Pelosi said. "All Americans are feeling real, serious, and deep economic pain. Yet President Bush has issued a veto threat against this legislation - despite the fact that it will help 3.8 million Americans and in fact, the entire economy."

While all six Georgia Congressional Democrats voted to provide millions of Georgians and Americans with relief in the sluggish economy, the G7 — Georgia's 7 Republican members of Congress — voted against the bill [Source: House Roll Call 412].

The head of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) Chris Van Hollen (D - Maryland) had some heavy criticisms for Paul Brown, Phil Gingrey and the other 142 Republicans who sided with George W. Bush's latest veto threat over middle class families struggling to make ends meet.

"House Republican efforts to defend the status quo and protect George Bush's and John McCain's failed economic policies have reached a new low," Van Hollen said. "Less than one week after the largest one-month jump in America's unemployment rate in two decades, House Republicans blocked passage of a bill to extend unemployment insurance to workers, who are struggling to find a new job in this slowing economy."

"This is a firm reminder that Republicans are absolutely comfortable with the status quo and are completely out of touch with the harsh economic realities facing American workers."

{ 31 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Republican Senator Calls John Linder's False Claim about Chinese Oil Drilling Off Cuba "Urban Legend"

by Andre on June 17, 2008

What do Vice President Dick Cheney and U.S. Representative John Linder (R - Georgia) have in common?

They're both making the same false claim that China is drilling for oil off the coast of Florida in Cuban waters.

Vice President Dick Cheney, in a speech last Wednesday to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce quoted a column by George Will, who wrote last week that "drilling is under way 60 miles off Florida. The drilling is being done by China, in cooperation with Cuba, which is drilling closer to South Florida than U.S. companies are." [Source: Miami Herald, 6/12/2008]

Today, in an op-ed column featured in the Gwinnett Daily Post, Congressman John Linder repeated the Vice President's claim:

Floridians oppose drilling 125 miles off shore for fear of a spill harming their beaches. However, China is drilling 50 miles from Key West on behalf of Cuba, which will then sell the oil to China. Why do we want them to have oil we could have?

Source: 6/17/2008 Gwinnett Daily Post op-ed "Increase oil supply and prices will drop"

Vice President Cheney's office was forced to issue a correction after Cheney made this claim. Even Republican Senator Mel Martinez, former Chairman of the Republican National Committee, stated that "Any talk of using some fabricated Cuba-China connection as an argument to change U.S. policy has no merit." He also said, "Reports to the contrary are simply false. They are akin to urban legends." [Source: Miami Herald, 6/12/08]

Americans are paying an average of \$4.08 for a gallon of gas and all they're getting are lies and 'urban legends' from Republicans.

If Republican Members of Congress, like John Linder, can't be trusted to tell the truth about where oil is being drilled, they certainly can't be trusted to do anything meaningful to lower the price of gas. Americans struggling to afford to fill their gas tanks deserve better than fear mongering and lies about gas prices from Republicans.

{ 54 comments

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

John Linder: We can't replace fossil fuels with renewable energy...

by Andre on June 17, 2008

...So let's open up the Outer Continental Shelf, the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve, tar sands and oil shale in the Western U.S. to drill, drill, drill.

The words above are the not-so-subtle suggestions of Georgia Congressman John Linder (R - Duluth) in an op-ed column published in this morning's Gwinnett Daily Post. In the column, Linder tries to convince us that the reason why the United States is not energy independent is because "radical environmentalists say no."

The Georgia Republican writes that "While it's great politics to support wind, solar, geothermal and biomass, it's terrible policy [...] We simply cannot replace our fossil fuel use with renewable energy."

And finally, Linder makes the case for placing oil wells within 150 miles of Anchorage or Juneau, Alaska saying, "I was in Saudi Arabia recently. They have oil wells within 150 miles of their capital city. You would never notice it. We can do the same in Alaska." [Source: 6/17/2008 Gwinnett Daily Post op-ed column "Increase oil supply and prices will drop"]

There can be no doubt that John Linder believes the solution to lowering gas prices and making Georgia and America more energy independent is to drill, drill, and drill some more to increase America's oil supply. However, John Linder's thinking represents a short-term solution to a long-term problem.

John Linder's logic represents a thinking-just-for-the-moment philosophy rather than a let's-plan-for-the-future one. Oil is a non-renewable resource meaning that eventually the oil supplies will run out. Drilling for more oil, even to the point of putting oil wells within 150 miles of Anchorage, Alaska, Los Angeles, California, or John Linder's hometown of Duluth, Georgia, may lower gas prices temporarily but the sand grains in that oil supply hourglass will continue to empty out.

And unlike a real hourglass, we can't just flip over the oil supply and start anew because once the oil is gone, it's gone.

Congressman Linder's words have provided yet another contrast between Democrats and Republicans in this critical year for change in Georgia and America. While John Linder and the Republicans believe the solution to our energy problems is to keep drilling, Democrats want to invest in renewable energy sources and end our current policy of borrowing money from the Chinese to buy oil from the Saudis.

Democrats believe that it is not only great politics support wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, and other renewable energy sources; it is also good policy.

{ 50 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

We're Getting Solutions From Democrats in Congress

by Andre on June 18, 2008

Yesterday, Icarus asked this question:

"What, exactly, are we getting from Democrats, the MAJORITY party in Congress?"

The answer to that question is Democrats are constantly and consistently introducing and passing legislation that addresses the major issues of American society today including reducing our country's reliance on foreign oils, making our country more energy independent, and investing more into renewable energy resources.

Since the Democratic Party became the majority party in Congress, nine bills have passed the United States House of Representatives dealing with lowering gas prices and promoting energy independence. Of those nine bills, four have become law while the other five have been held hostage by Republican opposition in the Senate and veto threats from the White House [*Source: "Rising Gas & Energy Prices," Speaker.gov*].

Yesterday, four of Georgia's Republican members of Congress, led by Lynn Westmoreland, signed a pledge that reads, "I will vote to increase U.S. oil production to lower gas prices for Americans." In response, a better pledge was offered:

"I will vote to enact laws that reduces America's reliance on foreign oil, invests in renewable energy and energy efficiency, and cracks down on gas price gouging and oil price fixing."

As of 10AM this morning, none of Georgia's GOP congressional delegation have signed the pledge, so one must examine their votes to see if they support putting Georgia and the rest of the country on a path towards energy independence.

On the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act (HR 6049), all seven Georgia Republicans opposed. On the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act (HR 5351), again all seven Georgia Republicans opposed. On the Gas Price Relief for Consumers Act of 2008 (HR 6074), five Georgia Republicans opposed. On the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (HR 6), which was signed into law by President Bush, six Georgia Republicans opposed. On the America COMPETES Act with Energy Research & Development of Clean Energy Technologies (HR 2272), also signed into law by President Bush, five Georgia Republicans opposed. On the Federal Price Gouging Prevention Act (HR 1252), every Georgia Republican in Congress at the time was against. And finally, on the No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels "NOPEC" Act (HR 2264), every Georgia Republican opposed [*Sources: House Roll Call #344: #84: #332: #1177: #802: #404: #398*].

The record speaks for itself.

On each piece of legislation that would put Georgia and the rest of the country on the path towards renewable energy, energy independence and lower gas prices, most, if not all, Republicans from the Peach State opposed and voted against the bills.

For Republicans like John Linder and Lynn Westmoreland, their answer to our nation's energy problems is to drill, drill, and drill some more. In comparison, the Democrats have offered bill after bill that A.) reduces America's reliance on foreign oil; B.) invests in renewable energy and energy efficiency; and C.) cracks down on gas price gouging and oil price fixing.

In other words, we're getting solutions from the Democratic Party.

{ 36 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Donzella James: God's People Are Tired Of Suffering

by Andre on June 24, 2008

Former state Sen. Donzella James (D - Atlanta) today announced that she had received the endorsement of the Georgia Informer newspaper. The paper boasts a circulation of over 44,000 readers. The paper's publisher, Herbert Dennard, said he was throwing his paper's support behind James because he believed she was the best candidate for the job. In a bit of irony though, before moving into Donzella James' corner, the Georgia Informer named her opponent, 13th district Congressman David Scott, to its "Georgia's 50 Most Influential Men" list in 2007.

Donzella James, who is making her third bid for Congress, accepted the paper's endorsement saying that her campaign had taken on a spiritual meaning.

"God's people are tired of suffering, watching our elected officials do nothing while they loose their homes, pay outrageous gas prices, watch our schools crumble, and continue to lose jobs," James said.

Despite Congressman Scott having voted with his Democratic colleagues a whopping 97.5% of the time according to the Washington Post's Congress votes database, James claimed David Scott had a voting record resembling that of a Republican.

"It's time to vote out the entire [Bush] administration and David Scott is a part of it," James said. "His voting record resembles that of a Republican and he doesn't represent our people."

James and Scott will face off against each other in the July 15th Democratic primary. The winner will then take on Republican Deborah Honeycutt in the November General Election.

{ 6 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

The Raging Bull Moose Gets Restrained By A Court Order [UPDATE]

by Andre on June 25, 2008

[UPDATE]: Sources familiar with the incident between Clint Murphy and Robin Wheeler tell me that Wheeler dropped the restraining order almost two weeks ago.

Peach Pundista Clint Murphy, also known as "Bull Moose" around these parts, is back in the news again after a female campaign staffer for a rival campaign accused Murphy of "stalking her to the ladies' room."

Clint Murphy, a Savannah political activist, had a magistrate court judge order him to stay away from Robin Wheeler until September 1st after things got a little rough between the two of them at the Wild Wing Cafe in Savannah last month. According to Wheeler, who works for 12th district congressional candidate Ben Crystal, Murphy assaulted her last month at the restaurant leaving "bruises on my arms where he was pulling me."

However, Murphy disputed Wheeler's account of the events saying that she shoved him into a wall when he attempted to speak to her [Source: 6/24/2008 Savannah Morning News article "Congressional campaign spat turns physical"]. He says that Wheeler was spreading rumors around town about how he was bringing to attention to Ben Crystal's messy divorce along with raising questions about Crystal's campaign practices including supposed problems with the Crystal campaign's yard signs and Crystal telling contributors that donations were tax deductible.

At the time of the incident, Murphy was working for Republican Ray McKinney's congressional campaign. McKinney will take on Ben Crystal and John Stone in the 12th congressional district Republican primary on July 15th. Clint Murphy has since left McKinney's campaign and taken a job as the Southeast Deputy Regional Campaign Manager for the John McCain presidential campaign.

After filing the restraining order, Robin Wheeler said, "I didn't get any sleep last night. I missed work this morning because I was so exhausted."

{ 61 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Democrats Commit Crimes Against the South

by Andre on June 27, 2008

As you may know, I was born in the south. I was born in Georgia and I was born in Atlanta at Grady Memorial Hospital. So, as you can see, I'm part of the Georgia trifecta; native southerner, native Georgian, and native Atlantan.

I'm very proud of that and I'm also very proud of the cuisine that is part of southern culture. I'm talking about the hot buttered biscuits, the cornbread, the fried okra, the mac & cheese, the peach cobbler, the grits, and oh yes, the fried chicken - fried chicken so good that you want to court-martial the colonel and tell Church's to go to hell.

So you can understand why I'm very distressed to know that there won't be any southern cuisine at the Denver Democratic National Convention.

As part of the effort to make the 2008 national convention the greenest ever, the Democrats' catering guidelines include one that strikes at the heart of Southern cuisine:
No fried food.

No fried chicken. No fried catfish. No fried green tomatoes. No fried okra. No fried anything.

Source: 6/26/2008 AJC article "Southern shocker: No fried food at Democratic convention"

Yes, you read that right.

Those liberal, commie wackos out in Denver want us to southern Democrats to eat healthy. Well, let me tell you, if I wanted to eat healthy I'd cut back on my daily breakfast of a dozen eggs and a loaf of toast (*no, I don't really eat that much. I just heard Redd Foxx use that line on a episode of "Sanford & Son" and it always cracks me up.*).

I've got a strong inclination to go out to Denver with a couple of hot plates, a bag of chicken legs (on sale this week at Kroger for 99 cents a pound), fry up some chicken and see which line is longer...

...The line for the rabbit food?

Or the line for the real, southern food?

{ 18 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Democrats Debate: Jim Martin Opposes Gay Marriage

by Andre on June 29, 2008

With three weeks left before Democratic voters head to the polls to pick a nominee to face off against Republican Saxby Chambliss in November, the five candidates running in the July 15th Democratic primary participated in a 60-minute debate sponsored by Fox 5 Atlanta (WAGA-TV).

The debate touched on a variety of issues from money in politics to troop withdrawal out of Iraq. And while there was a lot of agreement among the five Democrats on stage, there were also some disagreements as well.

Former U.S. Senate staffer Josh Lanier took on Jim Martin asking if the Democrats' 2006 Lt. Governor nominee should lead by example and stop accepting money from political action committees and special interest groups. Martin, in response, seemed to suggest that he would not refuse money from high dollar contributors.

"I play by the rules that all candidates play by...rules that Saxby Chambliss plays by," Martin said.

Lanier's question came after Martin said he had spent his career standing up to the special interests.

Rand Knight had his environmental credentials questioned by DeKalb County CEO Vernon Jones after Knight implied that Jones had done little to preserve the environment in DeKalb County.

[Rand Knight] has talked the talk but not walked the walk," Jones said. "You call yourself 'Mr. Environment'...you have not preserved land," Jones retorted to the political newcomer.

Jones went on to tout his environmental record as chief executive officer of DeKalb County saying the county was working with Georgia Natural Gas to capture methane gas from landfills. He also said that he has a track record of investing in renewable energy and that he worked with people of DeKalb to give rebates for those who installed low flowing toilets in their homes and businesses.

Dale Cardwell, running on his record as an investigative journalist for WSB-TV, asked voters if they trusted him.

"I have worked very very hard to tell you the truth," Cardwell said. For twenty-three years, you have trusted me to tell you the truth. I have been all over this state and [people are saying they would like] one chance to vote for an honest person. I'm that candidate," Cardwell continued.

On the subject of same-sex marriages, Vernon Jones, Dale Cardwell and Jim Martin were all in agreement. They all were against gays and lesbians having the right to marry. Only two candidates publicly said they were for same-sex marriages; Rand Knight and Josh Lanier.

29044251912

The Democratic U.S. Senate debate was moderated by Amanda Davis with questions from Morse Diggs and Paul Yates all of Fox 5 news.

{ 15 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Five GA Republicans Oppose Americans With Disabilities Restoration Act

by Andre on June 30, 2008

Last Wednesday, the United States House of Representatives passed a bill that would overturn a series of Supreme Court decisions that have narrowed the definition of disability under the American With Disabilities Act of 1990.

The ADA Restoration Act (H.R. 3195), which restores the original intent of the ADA by clarifying that anyone with an impairment, regardless of his or her successful use of treatments to manage the impairment, is entitled to seek a reasonable accommodation in the workplace, received 402 votes in favor and 17 votes against [Source: United States House of Representatives, Roll Call #460, June 25, 2008]. Five of those seventeen "nay" votes came from Georgia Republicans.

Paul Broun, Jack Kingston, John Linder, Tom Price and Lynn Westmoreland voted against the legislation that specifically:

- Amends the definition of disability so that individuals whom Congress originally intended to protect from discrimination are covered under the ADA;
- Prevents the courts from considering the use of treatment or other accommodations when deciding whether an individual qualifies for protection under the ADA; and
- Focuses on whether individuals can demonstrate they were treated less favorably on the basis of disability.

The original ADA passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in 1990 and was heralded by Republican and Democratic leaders as the "emancipation proclamation" for people with disabilities.

The ADA Restoration Act of 2008 is supported by a variety of advocacy groups and organizations such as the American Diabetes Association and the American Association of People with Disabilities.

{ 15 comments }

29044251914

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Linder, Westmoreland Vote Against Medicare Bill

by Andre on July 19, 2008

This past Tuesday, while thousands of Georgians were voting in the General Primary Election, two Georgia Congressmen were voting against overriding the Bush veto of a Medicare bill that among other things eliminates a 10 percent cut in payments to doctors.

House Resolution 6331, the the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act, became law Tuesday after the House and Senate overrode President Bush's veto of the legislation.

Two Georgia Republicans, John Linder and Lynn Westmoreland voted against the veto override [Source: United States House of Representatives, House Roll Call #421, July 15, 2008].

Doug Heckman, Linder's opponent in the November General Election, praised the bill's passage saying the measure protects millions of senior citizens and rural military families from losing the care of their physicians.

"Once again, Congressman Linder has no problem funding our soldiers in war, but refuses to fund their needs when they return home. Add this to his vote against the recently passed GI Bill and I see a poor policy trend," Heckman said.

{ 11 comments }

29044251915

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Blacks Vote for Race Over the Ability to Lead

by Andre on July 23, 2008

"If Victor Hill was [white], we would have already run him out of town, hung him in effigy, and we would've cussed his grandma out even if she were already dead. We would have not tolerated it. I'm worried about the fact that we vote for race over the ability to lead."

Clayton County Commission Chairman Eldrin Bell as quoted in the Creative Loafing article "Clayton County's tribulations"

The "We" Eldrin Bell is referencing is black voters.

There's no other way to sugarcoat it, so I'm going to just come out and say it.

A significant number of black voters cast their ballots based on putting more blacks in office rather than electing someone who can do the job and do it right. And, to make matters worse, it is like pulling teeth to get a corrupt or ineffective black elected official out of office.

In south Fulton, despite being the target of ethics investigations, state Rep. Sharon Beasley-Teague won her re-election bid. In Clayton County, Sheriff Victor "Walking Small" Hill almost won re-election without a run-off despite costing the taxpayers of his county millions of dollars.

Do you know why this is so?

It's because when campaign season rolls around, these black incumbents start labeling their black opponents as "Uncle Toms" or "Aunt Janes" sent down by whitey to take power from black folks. When campaign season rolls around, these black incumbents stroll into town hall meetings and imply that whitey is trying to get back in charge; and if whitey gets back in charge on Tuesday, they'll have all the darkies back in the fields picking cotton the following Wednesday.

Case in point, Clayton County District Attorney Jewel Scott called her run-off opponent, Tracy Graham-Lawson a "hanging judge." Scott is black and Graham-Lawson is white. In May, Dougherty County Commissioner Art Searles accused candidate for sheriff Benita Childs of running to split the black vote in order to keep another candidate, James Williams, from winning the election. Searles, Childs, and Williams are all black [Source: WALB-TV, "Sheriff candidate fires back at newspaper publisher", May 14, 2008].

Blacks vote for race over the ability to lead.

Yeah, I can agree with that, and unfortunately black voters lose a little respect each time a black elected official—who obviously needs to be sent home—gets re-elected by an electorate that is majority black.

{ 20 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Vernon Jones Says Jim Martin Voted Against Obama

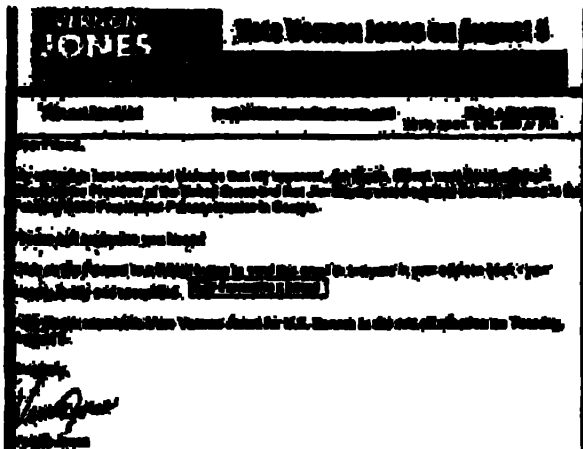
by Andre on July 23, 2008

Silly season for Georgia politics has officially been declared open by DeKalb County CEO Vernon Jones who today accused his run-off opponent, Jim Martin, of not supporting Illinois Senator Barack Obama's presidential campaign.

In an email to supporters, Jones wrote that his campaign had "uncovered evidence" that Jim Martin did not want Barack Obama to be president and even voted against Sen. Obama in the February 5th presidential primary.

The email urges readers to "Please tell everyone you know!"

A screenshot of the email is pictured below:



{ 15 comments }

29044251917

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

The Georgia Democratic Party's Lingering Diversity Issue

by Andre on July 27, 2008

This past Friday morning, I quietly filled out my ballot for the Georgia Democratic Party's DNC member elections and I voted for four individuals that I felt would do the best job representing Georgia Democrats and would represent all segments of the state's population.

Unfortunately, after all the votes were counted, the four people elected to represent Georgia on the Democratic National Committee do not reflect all segments of the state's population and while I don't believe the actions of the state Democratic committee were intentional, it has become more and more apparent that the Democratic Party of Georgia has a lingering diversity issue.

According to the 2000 Census, blacks represent 28.7% of Georgia's population. 2006 population estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau say that Georgia's black population has grown to almost 30%.

And yet there is only one black DNC member from Georgia.

Georgia has two black state-wide elected officials, four black members of Congress, more than fifty black state Representatives and state Senators, and countless other black county and municipal elected officials across the state.

And yet there is only one black DNC member from Georgia.

For the first time, a majority —54.5%— of the voters in the February 5th Democratic Presidential Preference Primary were black.

And yet there is only one black DNC member from Georgia.

Of the six Democratic National Committee members from Georgia, one and only one is black. And that is Commissioner of Labor Michael Thurmond. The remaining five Georgia DNC members are white.

This past Friday morning, I voted for a diverse and competent DNC delegation to represent Georgia. This past Friday morning, I voted for former DeKalb County Democratic Party Chair Barbara Campbell, Fulton County Democratic Party Executive Director Page Gleason, Georgia state AFL-CIO President Richard Ray and former state Party chair Calvin Smyre. Campbell and Smyre are black. Gleason and Ray are white.

I only wish that the other state Democratic committee members had voted the way I did and voted for diversity in Georgia's DNC membership.

{ 16 comments }

Peach Pundit

Fresh Political Pickins From The Peach State

Just a Quick Word on that Atlanta Progressive News Article

by Andre on July 30, 2008

This morning, you might have seen an article about me and my blogging on Atlanta Progressive News.com. While most of the article is correct — except for that part at the end about me donning camouflage attire, wearing nightvision goggles and being a covert campaign operative trying to steal secrets from former state Sen. Donzella James' congressional campaign offices — there are three important things that Matthew Cardinale, news editor for Atlanta Progressive News, failed to mention.

- 1.) In 2006, Atlanta Progressive News received \$145 from former Democratic Secretary of State candidate Angela Moore right before they endorsed her candidacy [Sources: State Ethics Commission; Atlanta Progressive News, "APN Issues Candidate Endorsements for 2006. Update 1", July 6, 2006];
- 2.) This year, Atlanta Progressive News received \$280 from the congressional campaign of former state Senator Donzella James and...big shocker...they endorsed her too [Sources: Federal Elections Commission; Atlanta Progressive News, "APN Announces 2008 Primary Endorsements for US House and Senate", June 22, 2008]; and finally,
- 3.) Atlanta Progressive News endorsed "Able" Mable Thomas for Congress *after* they received \$150 from the Thomas for Congress campaign [Sources: Federal Elections Commission; Atlanta Progressive News, "APN Announces 2008 Primary Endorsements for US House and Senate", June 22, 2008].

Based on these three pieces of important information, it appears that the endorsement of Atlanta Progressive News is up for sale and for that reason, their criticisms leveled against me are somewhere near the top of Mount Hypocrisy.

The entire piece is laughable.

{ 21 comments }

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of

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)
)

LRA 644

SUBPOENA TO PRODUCE DOCUMENTS

TO: Reverend Alfred C. Sharpton
c/o Sharpton 2004
1001 6th Ave. Suite 1211
New York, NY 10018

Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 437d(a)(3), and in furtherance of its investigation of Sharpton 2004, the Federal Election Commission hereby subpoenas the documents listed on the attachment to this Subpoena. Legible copies which, where applicable, show both sides of the documents may be substituted for the originals.

Notice is given that these documents must be submitted to the Office of the General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, 999 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463, within 20 days of your receipt of this subpoena.

WHEREFORE, the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission has hereunto set his hand in Washington, D.C. on this ____ day of _____, 2004.

For the Commission,

Bradley A. Smith
Chairman

ATTEST:

Mary W. Dove
Secretary of the Commission

Attachment

29044251920

ATTACHMENT TO SUBPOENA

This Subpoena has been issued by the Federal Election Commission under the authority of 2 U.S.C. § 437d(a)(3) as part of a lawful investigation being conducted under the authority of 26 U.S.C. § 9039(b).

Return the original Subpoena with an original affidavit signed by the appropriate official attesting that you provided all responsive documents under oath. The affidavit must be sworn and notarized.

INSTRUCTIONS

In answering this subpoena for production of documents, furnish all documents, however obtained, that are in your possession, or custody or control, or otherwise available to you, including documents and information appearing in your records.

Should you claim a privilege with respect to any documents requested, describe each document in sufficient detail to provide justification for the claim. Each claim of privilege must specify in detail all the grounds on which it rests.

Unless otherwise indicated, the discovery request shall refer to the time period from August 1, 2003 to March 11, 2004.

This subpoena for the production of documents is continuing in nature so as to require you to file supplementary responses or amendments during the course of this investigation if you obtain further or different information prior to or during the pendency of this matter. Include in any supplemental responses the date upon which and the manner in which such further or different information came to your attention.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of these discovery requests, including the instructions thereto, the terms listed below are defined as follows:

"Document" shall mean the original and all non-identical copies, including drafts, of all papers and records of every type in your possession, custody, or control, or known by you to exist. The term document includes, but is not limited to books, letters, contracts, notes, diaries, log sheets, records of telephone communications, transcripts, vouchers, accounting statements, ledgers, checks, money orders or other commercial paper, telegrams, telexes, pamphlets, circulars, leaflets, reports, memoranda, correspondence, surveys, tabulations, audio and video recordings, drawings, photographs, graphs, charts, diagrams, lists, computer print-outs, and all other writings and other data compilations from which information can be obtained, including data stored on electronic

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or magnetic media. Each draft or non-identical paper or electronic copy is a separate document within the meaning of this term.

“And” as well as “or” shall be constructed disjunctively or conjunctively as necessary to bring within the scope of this request for production of documents any documents and materials which may otherwise be construed to be out of their scope.

“You,” “your,” and “their” shall mean the named person or entity to whom these requests are directed, including all officers, employees, agents, volunteers and attorneys thereof, as well as any other person.

Except where the discovery request states otherwise, any reference to the singular shall be construed as including the plural, any reference to the plural shall be construed as including the singular.

DOCUMENT REQUESTS

1. Credit card statements covering the period August 1, 2003, through March 11, 2004, on which you incurred expenses in connection with seeking the Democratic Party nomination.
2. Any documents, such as credit card slips, receipts or invoices, supporting the charges included on the credit card statements noted above.
3. Any expense reimbursement forms you submitted to Sharpton 2004 during the period August 1, 2003 through March 11, 2004.
4. Any documents relating to requests from Sharpton 2004 for further information or documentation regarding the expense reimbursement requests submitted by you during the period August 1, 2003, through March 11, 2004.
5. Copies of all loan checks (front and back) issued by you and made payable to Sharpton 2004, including two loan checks in the amount of \$5,000 each, one loan check in the amount of \$10,000, and any other loan checks signed and/or written by you.
6. Copies of all checks (front and back) payable to you from Sharpton 2004 for reimbursement of expenses or repayment of loans for the period August 1, 2003 through March 11, 2004.

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